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Japan

U.S. 'Has No Plans To Resume' Satellite Talks

OW1503083290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0227 GMT 15 Mar 90

[By Shiro Yoneyama]

[Text] Washington, March 14 KYODO—The United States wants Japan to lift curbs on foreign satellite procurements by government and quasi-public agencies, a senior American trade official said Wednesday. He said the request is one of four "key objectives" of satellite talks with Japan. The latest round of bilateral negotiations here Monday and Tuesday ended without agreement.

"We had no progress whatsoever," the trade negotiator said, speaking on condition that he not be identified. "We certainly need a policy decision that creates a new framework for Japanese Government entities and NHK and NTT [Nippon Telegraph and Telephone] procurement decisions on satellites," he said.

Japanese trade negotiators said they do not anticipate any immediate breakthrough in the protracted negotiations.

No date has been set for the next round of satellite talks between the two countries.

Japan's satellite procurement policies have been designated by the U.S. as unfair trade practices under the so-called "Super 301" provision of the 1988 Trade Act. The U.S. has threatened to take retaliatory action under the "Super 301" provision unless Japan changes its policies. Japanese policies covering forest products and supercomputers also face possible punitive steps under the same omnibus trade law.

The official said Japan has refused to make a commitment to require Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (NTT) not to procure operational capacity on a new communications satellite codenamed CS4. "If Japan wants to restrict CS4 to Japanese manufacturers, CS4 should be a research and development satellite," the U.S. trade official told reporters.

The two other key U.S. objectives are a "transparent, nondiscriminatory procurement process" in Japan and a halt to the Japanese practice of requiring new entrants into the Japanese market to provide "convincing projections of new demand in the market," the official said.

"Firms that seek to get into business in providing communications satellite services should not be required to make such demand demonstrations as a condition of getting a license," he said. "If they're financially and technically qualified, let the market decide whether the demand exists," he maintained.

The official repeatedly emphasized that the U.S. does not object to Japan's space program. "We don't wish to harm it in the slightest. But we do have the desire to insure that in conducting a research and development program in space, that the Japanese Government does not unnecessarily intrude into the marketplace and restrict market access for competitive U.S. firms," he said.

The U.S. has defined research and development satellites as being for the purpose of in-space validation of new technologies or for basic scientific research. A Japanese official hinted during a briefing on Tuesday that Japan may have government-financed experimental satellites which may be later converted to operational ones.

Commenting specifically on CS4, the official said the new Japanese communications satellite will operate 24 hours a day for 10 years. "That's a pretty long-time laboratory experiment, wouldn't you say," he said, adding the Japanese space policy symbolizes an example of "infant industry protection."

"This is a trade issue, it is not a space policy issue," the official added. He said the U.S. has no plans to resume satellite talks with Japan until Tokyo comes up with "constructive and creative" initiatives to break the impasse. "A purchase of one satellite (by Japan) is not going to solve the satellite issue," the U.S. official said. "It has to be a principled resolution. We will continue to insist on an open market."

Mosbacher Presses Kaifu for Trade Talks Results

OW1503061490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0337 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 15 KYODO—U.S. Secretary of Commerce Robert Mosbacher told Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Thursday that Washington expects substantive results in trade talks with Japan over semiconductor and telecommunications. Mosbacher called for Japan's efforts to settle trade disputes over the two items, on top of satellites, supercomputers, and forest products.

The United States has designated Japan's policies in those three areas as unfair trade practices under the Super 301 Clause of the 1988 Trade Act, officials said.

Kaifu received Mosbacher at his official residence for nearly 30 minutes. Mosbacher is here on a four-day visit to Japan through Friday.

Kaifu Assures Mosbacher Trade Disputes Solvable

OW1503065190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0623 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 15 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu told U.S. Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher on Thursday he is confident the two countries can resolve outstanding trade disputes if they cooperate. But he said there are certain trade issues in the

Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) talks on which Japan cannot take immediate action, a government official told reporters.

"There are some things that Japan can do and others that it cannot do," Kaifu was quoted as saying in a 25-minute meeting with Mosbacher. "Some actions cannot be taken now, but will be possible later," Kaifu was reported as saying. The prime minister did not elaborate, but assured Mosbacher he is examining "what can be done, rather than what cannot be done," the official said.

"Japan and the United States must both make efforts to ensure the SII talks are successful," he told Mosbacher. Kaifu added Japan is approaching trade discussions from the interest of consumers as well as the future of Japan-U.S. relations.

Mosbacher told Kaifu it is urgent for the two countries to resolve their trade disputes in order to avert a crisis later, and said it is "extremely important" to achieve concrete results on SII talks and on five specific issues. These are telecommunications equipment, computer chips, and three items targeted by U.S. trade laws for possible sanctions—satellites, supercomputers, and wood products.

"We have to speedily resolve trade issues now so that a crisis does not arise later," he was quoted as saying.

The commerce secretary said he will report Kaifu's comments to U.S. President George Bush upon his return.

Mosbacher's visit was arranged following a summit between Kaifu and Bush in California on March 2-3. Mosbacher said Bush is also working to boost U.S. trade competitiveness, and resolve other matters hampering its international trade performance.

Later in a meeting with former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, Mosbacher reportedly said discussions on U.S. access to Japan's satellite market are "not going well."

In talks that ended Tuesday, negotiators once again failed to find a solution to the U.S. concern that the Japanese Government's financing of the infant satellite industry will interfere with Japanese purchases of American-made satellites.

Abe said he told Mosbacher Japan would arrive at a "political decision" without resorting to the explanation that it is developing its infant industry.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Abe said he told Mosbacher Japan would do what it can to resolve the supercomputer dispute, in which the U.S. says Japanese bidding practices should be changed to emphasize performance. But he said the dispute over Japanese regulations on wood products should be resolved at the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks.

Abe quoted Mosbacher as saying that Japan-U.S. relations are very good overall. The Japan-U.S. relationship is an important alliance, and trade issues are just one aspect, Mosbacher said. He said the two countries should resolve the SII talks based on our overall excellent relations.

Abe said the SII talks should be handled calmly.

The talks are aimed at removing structural barriers to trade and investment in order to help reduce the U.S. 49 billion dollar trade deficit with Japan.

Meanwhile, Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto told reporters the government is attempting to work out an outline for a midterm report on the SII talks in time for informal negotiations, tentatively planned to take place in New York on March 20.

Business Leader Urges Increased Public Spending

OW1503091190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0841 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 15 KYODO—The president of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry joined the United States Thursday in calling for increased public spending to improve social infrastructures such as roads and parks. Addressing a general meeting of the business group, Rokuro Ishikawa said the most serious international issue facing Japan is to improve worsening Japan-U.S. relations and urged the government to take firm steps in response to U.S. demands.

In trade talks dubbed the Structural Impediments Initiative (SII), Washington has been urging Tokyo to increase public spending and make its retail distribution system more open to imports—measures the United States says will help cut its 49 billion dollar annual trade deficit with Japan.

But Ishikawa took a dim view of abolishing a law limiting the opening of new large retail stores as demanded by the U.S. reflecting his position as the head of the chamber which consists mainly of small- and medium-scale business.

"It's desirable that (the government) consider the consumers' interest and try to implement the law appropriately while maintaining the present legal framework," he said.

The U.S. has targeted the law, saying it is one of nontariff barriers to U.S. imports as large stores usually sell them in Japan.

On other topics, Ishikawa supported the consumption tax and called on the government to take measures to make the new tax better understood and more rooted among the public. The 3 percent tax took effect last April under a sweeping tax reform, but resulting public criticism has led the government to review the controversial tax.

Kaifu Sends Gorbachev Congratulatory Message

OW1503093290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0923 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 15 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Thursday sent a congratulatory message to Mikhail Gorbachev on his election as the first Soviet state president, expressing the hope that his leadership would bring about the success of perestroyka (reform) policies.

Kaifu said in the message, "I hope the new presidency will open a new page in relations between Japan and the Soviet Union as the 21st Century approaches." He urged Gorbachev, who is scheduled to visit Japan next year, to establish stable bilateral ties "based on true and mutual understanding and trust as well as through active dialogue."

Top government Spokesman Misoji Sakamoto said he strongly hopes Gorbachev's enhanced power would open a new era of improved relations. "We expect that Japan-Soviet relations will be different from how they were during the cold war era," the chief cabinet secretary told reporters. "We hope Japan-Soviet friendship will be accelerated."

Foreign Minister Welcomes Gorbachev's Election

OW1503084390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0830 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 15 KYODO—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama on Thursday welcomed the election of Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev to the Soviet Union's first state presidency and expressed big expectations in his enlarged powers.

Nakayama, describing Gorbachev's election as an important choice by the Soviet people on their political reforms, said he hopes that Gorbachev uses his power especially for fundamental improvement in Japan-Soviet relations as well as for peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

Nakayama said the introduction of the new system of state presidency presumably was prompted by the need for greater authority to go ahead with perestroyka reforms. He expressed hope that Gorbachev's leadership will stimulate a shift to market-oriented economy and political democracy and help the nation overcome mounting economic and ethnic problems.

Foreign Ministry officials say stability of Gorbachev's government is indispensable to solution of the pending territorial issue which stands in the way of conclusion of a bilateral peace treaty nearly 44 years after the end of World War II. The Soviet Union occupied Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan and the Habomai Island group just east of Hokkaido soon after the war and still holds them despite Japan's repeated demand for their return.

Senior ministry officials also expressed concern about the presidential right to declare state of emergency, uncertain of how Gorbachev would use the power in critical situations such as the ethnic issues. Gorbachev expressed his alarm over declaration of independence on Monday by Lithuania, one of the three Baltic republics incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1940.

In the process of pursuing perestroyka, with an eye on future multiparty system, Gorbachev may face extreme difficulty if he relinquishes the post of general secretary of the Communist Party, ministry sources said.

The Congress of People's Deputies, the Soviet parliament, on Tuesday approved the creation of the new post of state president with broad executive powers, and put an end to the seven-decade long monopoly of the Communist Party.

Gorbachev had already held the title of president as chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, which gave him only limited authority. Opponents said the post was decided too quickly and would give the new president too much power.

JAL, Aeroflot To Study Eastern Europe Routes

OW1403152190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1357 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 14 KYODO—Japan Airlines Co. (JAL) said Wednesday it had agreed with the Soviet state-run airline Aeroflot to jointly study the possibility of opening new routes between Japan and Eastern Europe via Moscow. They will also conduct market research on infrastructure and the hotel industries in Eastern Europe to assess the possibilities for boosting the travel industries there, JAL officials said.

The agreement was reached with Aeroflot when 10-member JAL delegation, led by Mitsunari Kawano, JAL managing director, visited the Soviet Union earlier this month, JAL officials said. According to the agreement, the planned new routes include ones from Tokyo to Budapest and Warsaw, via Moscow, which Aeroflot and JAL might operate jointly.

Another proposal would connect both companies' routes at Leningrad and Kiev, where many sights of historic and cultural interest would draw more visitors from around the world, the officials said.

The two airlines also plan joint construction of Western style hotels in Moscow. Further possibilities for future business cooperation between the two countries will also be examined. The Soviet side has requested that JAL cooperate in tourist development of the Soviet Far East centering on around Khabarovsk, the JAL officials said.

Banks Reportedly To Resume Loan to China

OW1403142990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1341 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 14 KYODO—Four Japanese banks said Wednesday they will resume a loan to China to finance the expansion of a steel mill there. It is the first loan from Japan since the military clampdown on pro-democracy movements last June.

The Industrial Bank of Japan, Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank, Sumitomo Bank and Sanwa Bank said they will jointly extend 20 million dollars to the China International Iron and Steel Investment Corp. in Beijing. The Industrial Bank of Japan will be the lead manager.

The interest rate is 0.5 percent above the London inter-bank offered rate (LIBOR). The repayment term is eight years, they said.

The Chinese corporation will use the loan for an expansion project planned by the Shanghai Meishan Metallurgical Corp., a steelmaker based in the suburb of Nanjing.

The banks said the move should not offend the U.S. Congress, which has been calling for sustained economic sanctions against China, because the loan had been agreed on before the Chinese Government's military crackdown.

Worldwide commercial banks have frozen old and new loans to China as part of economic sanctions following the bloody crackdown. The World Bank and the U.S. Export-Import Bank partially resumed new loans to China in February, partly due to concern about the stability of China's economy.

Industry sources said the planned loan is expected to prompt other Japanese banks to lift their freeze on promised loans to China. Among loans halted by Japanese banks are a 20 million dollar cofinancing with U.S. banks to the China National Petrochemical Corp. and a joint loan with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to the People's Bank of China, worth 25 million dollars. Japanese banks, if requested by China, are ready to resume negotiations on these loans, the sources said.

As for new loans, the banks are still cautious, sources said. European countries and the U.S. Congress are opposed to such loans.

Background on Third-Generation Koreans Talks

OW1403132090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1243 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 14 KYODO—High-level officials from the Japanese and South Korean Foreign Ministries will meet in Tokyo next Monday to seek a solution to the legal status of third-generation Koreans living in Japan, Foreign Ministry sources said Wednesday.

Sakutaro Tanino, director general of the Japanese Ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau, and his Korean counterpart Kim Chong-ki, are expected to exchange views on the issue to break the deadlock in their informal meeting, the sources said.

The meeting will follow the latest talks in Seoul on February 27, the seventh such talks since December 1988.

The present negotiations are being conducted within the framework of a bilateral agreement made in 1965. Both nations agreed to discuss before January 16, 1991, the legal status of third-generation Koreans born in Japan to second-generation Koreans on January 17, 1971 or later.

Japanese ministry officials said Japan is handling the issue with the recognition that it developed from historical relations between the two countries and that an increasing number of Koreans have settled and mixed with the Japanese society.

South Korea has presented a list of demands, including an automatic provision for permanent residency and the abolition of repatriation and fingerprinting as a means of registration, the officials said.

South Korea is linking concrete progress on the Korean residents' issue, together with requests for help for atomic bomb victims now living in South Korea and for the return home of Koreans living in Sakhalin, with the planned visit to Japan by President No Tae-u. No's visit to Tokyo was twice cancelled in the past year due to domestic situations in Japan.

The third-generation Korean residents who are currently in Japan have no legal protection under Japanese law.

Japan grants permanent residence permits to Koreans who lived in Japan before World War II, to first-generation Koreans born in Japan between January 17, 1966 and January 16, 1971, and to second-generation Koreans.

During Japan's 1910-1945 colonial rule of Korea, many Koreans were taken to Japan for forced labor. There are an estimated 680,000 Korean residents in Japan.

BOJ Says 'No Change' in Monetary Policy

OW1503112190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1024 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 15 KYODO—Bank of Japan [BOJ] Governor Yasushi Mieno said Thursday there is no change in Japan's monetary policy at present. Mieno said "there is no change in the bank's stance," adding the central bank is still closely studying effects of its three rate hikes last year.

The key lending rate, at which the BOJ extends loans to commercial banks, now stands at 4.25 percent. It has been rumored that the central bank is considering to raise the rate by 0.75-1.00 percentage point in the near future.

Mieno made his remarks at a press conference upon returning from his nine-day trip to Europe where he attended a monthly governor's meeting of the Bank of International Settlements (BIS) in Basel, Switzerland.

Kaifu Seeks Action on Political Reform

OW1403151490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1424 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 14 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, repeating his campaign pledge to introduce political reforms, on Wednesday urged his top party deputy charged with overseeing the job to resume his efforts. Kaifu told Masayoshi Ito, head of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's [LDP] headquarters for promoting political reforms, he had a "new resolve" to implement recommendations by the Election System Council, a government advisory panel, due in April.

Ito agreed to open a meeting of the LDP panel later this month and to give Kaifu an opportunity to express his views on political reform.

Among the top items targeted for revision are restrictions on fund raising, and revising electoral districts in response to shifts in population. At present it takes three times as many voters to elect a candidate in some urban districts as in rural districts. Reducing the size of electoral districts, which currently lump three to five politicians in a single election zone, is also being discussed.

The medium-sized electoral districts are believed to contribute to the high cost of campaigning because candidates from the same party run against each other, each with financial backing from their respective intra-party factions. Ito cautioned that recently the factions have become stronger.

Interest in implementing political reforms has apparently cooled off after the scandal-plagued LDP pulled through the February 18 general election with its majority intact. Kaifu has said he plans to announce political reforms in time for parliament's centennial in November.

Matsunaga Urges Opening of Rice Market

OW1403142290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1340 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 14 KYODO—The former ambassador to the United States, Nobuo Matsunaga, called Wednesday for lowering the barrier to Japan's rice market. Matsunaga, delivering a lecture at an intrafaction forum within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), said there is a limit to Japan's "food security" policy.

Japan's persistent ban of rice imports might provoke retaliation by the U.S., he said. He urged the government to stop thinking about the rice issue in uncompromising terms. He said Japan already imports rice in processed form.

New SDF Joint Staff Council Chairman Named

OW1303025690 Tokyo KYODO in English 0037 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 13 KYODO—The government Tuesday named Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF) Chief of Staff Gen. Taizo Terashima as chairman of the Joint Staff Council, replacing Gen. Masao Ishii, who took early retirement.

Gen. Atsushi Shima, commander of the Northern District Army, was named to Terashima's post as GSDF chief of staff. The appointments, endorsed by the cabinet in a regular session Tuesday morning, will go into force Thursday, government officials said.

Terashima, 56, is the first officer who enlisted into the Self-Defense Force to assume the SDF's top uniformed post. A law graduate of Tohoku University, Terashima joined the SDF in 1956, two years after the defense force was upgraded from the paramilitary national security force. Terashima has been SDF chief of staff since December 1987, having previously served as commander of the 11th GSDF Division and commander of the Eastern District Army.

Shima, 55, joined the SDF in 1957 and became commander of the Northern District Army in July 1988, having previously served as commander of the 9th GSDF Division and a director of the National Defense Academy. A graduate of the Defense Academy, Shima is the second academy alumnus after Maritime Self-Defense Force Chief of Staff Adm. Hajime Sakuma to become SDF chief of staff.

Extremist Group Claims Responsibility for Fire

OW1503130390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1220 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 15 KYODO—Extremist group Chukakuha (Middle Core Faction) on Thursday claimed responsibility for a fire Wednesday morning in the parking lot of a building housing a government-run Nuclear Fuel Corporation in a statement sent to KYODO News Service and other Tokyo-based news organizations.

A fire fighter died while tackling the blaze in the underground parking lot at the Sankaido Building in Akasaka, Minato Ward, and three parked cars were destroyed.

The statement said that the Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Developmemt Corporation is an organization designed to boost Japanese militarism.

The group did not comment on the death of the fireman.

Mitsibishi, Daimler-Benz To Develop Airplane

OW1303211490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1500 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 13 KYODO—The chairman of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. (MHI) said Tuesday the company will make active efforts to develop a 75-seat passenger plane with Dasa, the aerospace division of the Daimler-Benz group, as part of a business cooperation agreement with the West German conglomerate. Yotaro Iida, MHI leader, made the remark in an exclusive interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE Tuesday in Tokyo.

Last week four Mitsubishi group companies—Mitsubishi Corp., MHI, Mitsubishi Motors Corp. and Mitsubishi Electric Corp., and the Daimler-Benz group, announced the conclusion of the broad-ranging cooperation accord. At that time, the companies did not mention any project to be promoted jointly by the two sides.

Iida said MHI would probably transfer technology for desulfurizing the exhaust of diesel engines to Dasa's prime mover division. The cooperation will start with the transfer of such technology, considered relatively easy to offer.

Iida also said teams of engineers from MHI and Dasa would shortly meet in preparation for the start of basic research on the development of space shuttles flying between Japan and the United States and Japan and Europe via space at an ultrasonic speed, and on a project for utilization of space by means of man-made satellites.

Mongolia

Ochirbat Elected Party Chief; Sodnom Resigns

OW1503095890 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] The Eighth Plenum of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee ended Wednesday [14 March] in Ulaanbaatar. It lasted three days which is a record time in the past 40 years.

The Plenum decided to convene an extraordinary party congress on April the 10th and to relinquish the vanguard role of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party in the society.

The Plenum elected new Central Committee Politburo members, secretaries, and new members of the party Central Committee.

The Plenum has elected Gombojabyn Ochirbat new general secretary of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee. He is 61 years of age, headed the Ideological Department of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, and was chairman of the Mongolian Trade Union Central Council. In the past two years, Ochirbat represented the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party in the World Marxist Review.

The Plenum has taken into consideration the request of Jambyn Batmonh to resign from the post of chairman of the Presidium of the People's Great Hural, parliament, and Dumaagiyn Sodnom to resign as prime minister of Mongolia.

The Eighth Plenum of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee has approved the agenda of an extraordinary congress of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party to be held on April the 10th, including political report to the congress and some organizational questions.

Altogether 927 delegates will be elected to the forthcoming extraordinary congress of the party.

The Eighth Plenum excluded the former party and state leader Yumjaagiyn Tsedenbal from the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party and deprived him of the titles of Hero of the Mongolian People's Republic and Hero of Labor of the Mongolian People's Republic and other high government awards.

The Plenum politically rehabilitated a number of people who were repressed in the sixties.

Plenum Concludes; Radio Summarizes Resolution

OW1503104490 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] The Eighth Plenum of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee ended on March the 14th. The Plenum adopted a resolution on the present political situation in Mongolia. Radio Ulaanbaatar presents a gist of this resolution:

The resolution says that up to now the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee Politburo failed to take into account the lessons of the past history and did not rule persistently in order to renew the party and the matters of its work, abolish serious drawbacks and errors in the personnel policy, and hence it failed to guide the party Central Committee's work in a way meeting the imperative of the time.

Although the last party plenums put forward some burning economic problems, they failed to work out well-considered guiding principles to tackle them. The decisions on economic renewal failed to break the old economic system, and so they delayed the process of changes and caused tendencies toward growing economic difficulties.

The resolution underlines that members and deputy members of the party Central Committee have shown themselves unaware of the higher responsibility they assumed and lacked initiative. The implementation of the previous plenums' decision was carried out in an ineffective way and brought little result. Therefore, the

party lost the initiative in solving the ever-new pressing problems and this caused some phenomena that could lead to social instability, and the population feels ever more worried about the process and the fate of reconstruction.

The suggestion on the resignation of the Politburo and the party secretaries has been a timely decision designed at ensuring people's tranquility, national unity, and respect of humanism and political stability. There is a need to do away with the administrative command and bureaucratic methods of management which dominated dozens of years since Tsedenbal's rule, to adopt genuine democracy in the party life and its activities, develop pluralism of views, and, for this purpose, separate the functions of the party and the state, and persistently renew the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party.

The Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party must establish businesslike relations with other political and public organizations and cooperate with them on the basis of mutual understanding in the name of maintaining national unity and improving people's well-being, says the plenum resolution.

Roundtable Prepares Constitutional Changes

LD1403192690 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1806 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Ulaanbaatar (ADN correspondent)—All political forces in Mongolia will help draft bills in the future. This was agreed to today during a roundtable meeting in Ulaanbaatar by representatives of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party [MPRP], the Democrats and Social Democrats, the Union of Students, the Patriotic Front for National Unity, and the Commission for Preparing the Special Congress of the Youth Association. A working group is to submit draft laws on changes and amendments to the Constitution. These relate to the deletion of the leading role of the MPRP, the future structure of the highest people's representation, and elections to the People's Great Hural. The parliament is to discuss the documents next Wednesday. The sides agreed that the political forces will take part on an equal basis at all levels in the election commissions.

The next discussion will take place on 17 March.

Reshuffling of Trade Union Leadership Suggested

OW1503113190 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] The Association for Trade Union Renewal has held a press conference in Ulaanbaatar. There, one of the initiators of the association, Battsengel, charged the Trade Union Central Council in the incapablity to renew its activity and mobilize efforts and resources of its members. He has favored the reshuffling of the present trade union leadership.

Mr. Battsengel said that association has deigned to promote the turning of the Mongolian trade unions into free trade unions and will be dissolved as soon as the free trade unions is formed, noted Battsengel.

North Korea

PRC's Jiang Zemin Continues Pyongyang Visit

Kim Il-song Hosts Banquet

SK1403135190 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1200 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Speech by Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Worker's Party of Korea (WPK), at the banquet in honor of Comrade Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, held at the Kumsusan Assembly Hall in Pyongyang on the evening of 14 March—read by announcer]

[Text] Esteemed Comrade Jiang Zemin, guests from China, and Comrades:

Following our impressive meeting with the leading core member comrades of the party and state of China in Beijing last year, today, we are again meeting with Comrade Jiang Zemin in Pyongyang. We are very pleased with this meeting.

At this significant place where our hearts are overflowing with warm friendship between revolutionary comrades, I, in the name of the WPK Central Committee, the Korean people, and myself, warmly [yolyolhi] welcome the visit to our country by Comrade Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, and his entourage.

Esteemed Comrade Jiang Zemin visited our country on his first tour abroad since he assumed the heavy responsibility as general secretary of the CPC Central Committee through the lofty trust by the CPC members and Chinese people. This is the manifestation of an exceptional trust reposed in our party and our people by the CPC and the Chinese people and their friendship toward us as well as a clear expression of the unshakable will of Comrade Jiang Zemin and the CPC to treasure and keep flowering the Korean-Chinese friendship which was provided and has been fostered jointly by us and old Chinese leaders including Comrades Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, and Deng Xiaoping.

The peoples of Korea and China linked their destinies into one a long time ago, and have shared life and death and weal and woe, in the fight against their common enemies, held dear the feelings of obligation as comrades in the revolution and strengthened their comradeship.

The peoples of our two nations fought together against the Japanese imperialists, fought together against the U.S. imperialists, and closely supported and cooperated with each other in the struggle to build socialism.

This year is the 40th anniversary of the participation of the Chinese People's Volunteers in the Korean front

under the banner: resist America, aid Korea, safeguard the home, and defend the nation.

When our people suffered arduous trials due to the U.S. imperialists' armed invasion, the fraternal Chinese people, even under the difficult circumstances in which they had just won victory in the popular revolution, sent their outstanding sons and daughters to the Korean front and helped our people's struggle with blood.

This has become the most outstanding example of proletarian internationalism. This clearly showed that the friendship between the peoples of Korea and China is indeed the great, vigorous, and sincere friendship between the revolutionary comrades who share their fate.

Korean-Chinese friendship, which was sealed with blood in the flames of arduous revolutionary struggle, is based on the common aspirations and wishes of the peoples of the two countries and has withstood all trials in history. It is still displaying its great vitality in defending and developing the causeof anti-imperialist independence and socialism and will, in the future, too, continue to strengthen and develop with the powerful advance of the revolutionary cause of the peoples of the two countries.

The current visit of Comrade Jiang Zemin to our country will serve as an important occasion in further deepening the comradely friendship and amicable relations between us and in expanding and developing the friendship between the parties and peoples of Korea and China into a new higher stage.

The Chinese people are a great people who created a brilliant culture and history. The CPC is a refined and skillful party which has glorious revolutionary traditions and rich struggle experiences.

Under the correct leadership of the CPC, the fraternal Chinese people overcame arduous trials and difficulties by highly demonstrating the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard struggle and persistently advanced along the path of socialism—the path of independence. Thus, they eliminated long-persisted backwardness and poverty, and built a new mighty China overflowing with a happy socialist life in the broad land of China.

The Chinese people who, with a high ambition and hope, started a new long march after the third plenary session of the 11th CPC Central Committee, have been making a great advance in their efforts to build modernized socialism with Chinese characteristics while maintaining the four cardinal principles and deepening the work of socialist reform and openness.

The brilliant success the Chinese people have achieved in socialist construction and the increase in the might of socialist China are a great inspiration to the revolutionary people of the world and a telling blow to the international reactionaries that go against the current of history. The prompt quelling by the party, government, and people of China of the counter-revolutionary riots last year which were instigated by reactionary forces at home and abroad showed that nothing can weaken the revolutionary spirit of the Chinese people, the heirs to the glorious revolutionary traditions, or destroy socialism which has struck deep roots in the Chinese continent.

Through their practical life, the Chinese people firmly believe in the superiority of the socialist system and in the justness of the socialist cause. The fact that the song We Like Socialism is widely sung among the Chinese people shows the firm conviction of the Chinese people in the socialist cause. Certain clauses of the song—such as: socialism is good; the people will defend the land of socialism; and, the socialist society will be certainly victorious and the communist society will come without fail—show the Chinese people ardently love the socialist fatherland and firmly linked the future of socialism with their own destiny.

Our people sincerely rejoice over the fact that the fraternal Chinese people are building socialism successfully under the leadership of the CPC with Comrade Jiang Zemin at the core. We heartily wish them fresh success in their efforts to implement the decisions of the 13th Congress of your party and the resolutions of the fifth and sixth plenary sessions of the 13th Central Committee.

Today the Korean people are vigorously struggling for socialist construction and for the independent and peaceful reunification of the nation under the difficult circumstances in which the nation is divided and we are in direct confrontation with the U.S. imperialists. Our people are vigorously carrying out the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—in firm unity with the party and are registering brilliant labor exploits in the struggle to accomplish the Third Seven-Year Plan ahead of schedule.

Even under the circumstances in which the repressive maneuvers of the reactionaries have been strengthened with each passing day, the South Korean people courageously are rising in the struggle to achieve the anti-U.S. independence, antifascist democratization, and national reunification. They are greatly contributing to the work of opening phases favorable to national reunification.

Taking this opportunity, I express deep thanks to the fraternal Chinese people for their active support for and encouragement to our people's just cause for socialist construction and for the independent and peaceful reunification of the nation. The socialist cause is the cause of the people themselves for pioneering the happy future of the people. Victory of new things always accompanies the struggle against outdated things.

In the course of pioneering the unexplored path toward socialism, one may encounter passing difficulties and even go through twists and turns particularly because the imperialists and other reactionaries are continuing with their obstructive maneuvers. However, no matter how

frantically the reactionaries of history may maneuver, they cannot reverse the course of history nor check the people's cause of socialism.

The popular masses are the masters of revolution and construction; they are the motivating power behind these undertakings. When one believes in the masses of people and fights by relying on their inexhaustible strength, one is sure to emerge victorious in the socialist cause. Through the long revolutionary struggle, we have keenly realized this. We also will, in the future, carry out the socialist cause to the end by relying on the popular masses.

Under any complex and arduous circumstances, the WPK and Korean people will continuously advance without the slightest degree of wavering by upholding the banner of socialism—the revolutionary banner. We will fight shoulder to shoulder with the fraternal Chinese people in accomplishing the common cause for building socialism against imperialism.

I hope that the visit of esteemed Comrade Jiang Zemin to our country will be successful and will bring about good fruition. I now propose a toast to the everlasting fraternal friendship and unity between the two parties and peoples of Korea and China; to the strengthening and development of the CPC and to the prosperity of the PRC; to the good health and long life of esteemed Comrade Jiang Zemin; to the good health of the guests from China; and to the good health of all comrades present here.

PRC Leader Speaks at Banquet

SK1403150090 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1200 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Speech by Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, at banquet arranged by President Kim Il-song at Kumsusan Assembly Hall on the evening of 14 March—read by announcer]

[Text] Esteemed General Secretary Comrade Kim Il-song, respected leading cadre comrades of Korea, and dear comrades:

Thanks to General Secretary Kim Il-song's sincere invitation, I have come to make an official friendship visit to the DPRK, our close friendly neighbor, in the first spring of the nineties and I am very pleased with it.

The moment we set our foot in the soil of your beautiful country, your party and the people of the city of Pyongyang accorded us a very magnificent and warm welcome. This evening, Comrade Kim Il-song moves us very deeply by welcoming us and delivering a speech full of passion with such a splendid banquet.

For this I am extending my wholehearted thanks to esteemed Comrade Kim Il-song, the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], and the fraternal Korean people. At the same time, availing myself of this opportunity, I am conveying to all the WPK members and Korean people warm greetings and beautiful wishes from the CPC and the Chinese people.

Comrades: The Chinese-Korean friendship has overcome the grave ordeals of history and has struck its roots deep in the hearts of the peoples of the two countries. The revolutionaries in our two countries have struggled together in blood both in the chronicle of the revolutionary struggles and in common struggle against invasion from abroad. Also, over the past several years we have thickened this friendship by mutually supporting, emulating, and understanding each other during the period of socialist construction.

The leading cadre comrades of our two parties and two countries have consolidated and developed the relations of friendship and cooperation between us without interruption by exchanging opinions and information on situations through mutual visits as if they were visiting their relatives.

I am delighted beyond measure that I am realizing my longstanding desire of several years by coming to Korea in my first trip abroad, the first since I have begun working as general secretary of our party. I have come to your country this time to mainly exchange views on the matters of our mutual concern in meetings with Comrade Kim Il-song, to get acquainted with other leading cadre comrades of Korea, to deepen mutual understanding, and promote the Chinese-Korean friendship furthermore with them.

We have been engulfed in an atmosphere overflowing with the Korean people's cordial sentiment of friendliness toward the Chinese people from the moment we arrived in your country. We also are very much charmed by the beautiful appearance of the stately and splendid capital city of Pyongyang. Pyongyang, which in the past was so badly destroyed and was in the heap of ashes because of the gunfire of war, has now been rebuilt as a modern city in which high-rise buildings stand in a continuous row.

Over the past 40 odd years since the DPRK was founded, the Korean people have attained great successes in various areas by vigorously carrying out socialist construction, displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and arduous struggle under the leadership of the WPK and Comrade Kim Il-song. The DPRK has implemented a foreign policy of independence, friendship, and peace and has exerted positive effort to promote peace in Asia and the world in general, while actively developing relations of friendship and cooperation with peoples of many countries.

We truly rejoice over the successes you have attained in socialist construction and in external work and wholeheartedly wish you still greater success in the future.

Uniting and cooperating as one, the Chinese people are now vigorously struggling to build socialism with Chinese characteristics. Over the past 11 years, we have

attained major progress in the road of building a modern socialist country with a high degree of civilization and high degree of democracy. We have fulfilled the task of doubling the gross national product and per capita income two years ahead of schedule. Our country's real ability [sillyok] as a whole has increased sharply and the people's standard of living has also improved conspicuously.

Practice has firmly proved that our party's lines on maintaining the four cardinal principles, reform and opening centered on economic construction is fully suitable to the realities of our country and was correct. These lines have already struck their roots firmly in the soil of China and have deeply permeated the hearts of the Chinese people.

Politics, economy, and society are all stabilized in our country. The sixth plenary meeting of our party's 13th Congress, which concluded two days ago, adopted an important decision on placing the main stress on strengthening the ties between the party and the popular masses.

We will make every effort possible to realize the goal of bringing about stability and development in our country's politics, economy, and society. We also will strive to double the gross national product by the end of the current century by upholding without let-up the policy to improve the economic environment, rectify the economic order, and deepen the reforms.

No matter what whirlwind may sweep through the world, we will continue to maintain the peaceful external policy of sovereignty and independence, develop the relations of friendship and cooperation with all the countries in the world based on the five principles of peaceful coexistence, and maintain unity with the Third World countries.

We will advance, with firm conviction, along the socialist road without even the slightest wavering, while maintaining the policy of reforms and opening up to the outside world by continually displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and arduous struggle.

Comrades: Even though 45 years have passed since it was liberated, Korea has not yet achieved its national reunification and it still suffers the artificial division into two parts—North and South. Over the past several decades, the WPK and the Korean Government have put forward numerous reasonable assertions and initiatives, including the proposal for the founding of the democratic confederal republic of Koryo, in order to bring an end to this tragedy of historic proportions and to realize the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea.

In his New Year's address delivered last January, Comrade Kim Il-song has also called on the North and South to pull down the wall between them. He urged the two sides to realize free travel for figures from all walks of life and all standings in the North and South. He also called on them to fully open up to one another in all areas, including politics, economy, and culture, proposing that the North and South negotiate together (?relations of reunification) by holding the consultative conference between the heads of the authorities and the leaders of political parties in which the top levels of the North and South would participate. The CPC and the Chinese people fully support this major proposal advanced by Comrade Kim Il-song.

To ease the situation on the Korean peninsula, the United States should withdraw from South Korea all of its troops and military facilities and discontinue committing acts capable of exacerbating the tense situation on the Korean peninsula.

We insist that the United States provide conditions favorable to letting the Korean people settle the issue of peace and reunification of Korea on their own by probing reasonable ways of solving the Korean question through the holding of tripartite talks together with the North and South of Korea.

We are convinced that the cause of the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea will arrive at its final victory without fail thanks to the Korean people's indomitable and persistent effort and the positive support from the people of the world.

Comrades: The CPC and the Chinese people consistently value very much the traditional Chinese-Korean friendship and assume consolidating and developing this friendship as the firm policy of our party and government. This is favorable for peace and stability in Asia and the world in general because it is basically in the interests of our two parties and peoples. We wholeheartedly wish that the Chinese-Korean friendship will blossom more fully thanks to the attentive care of the peoples of the two countries.

Comrades: Concluding my speech, I propose a toast to the great friendship between the two parties, two countries, two peoples of China and Korea, to the prosperity and development in the DPRK, to the good health and long life of esteemed General Secretary Comrade Kim Il-song, to the good health of esteemed secretary Comrade Kim Chong-il, to the good health of esteemed leading cadre comrades of Korea, and to the good health of the Korean comrades and Chinese comrades present here.

Jiang Urges 'Tripartite Talks'

SK1403163090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1622 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 14 (KCNA)—For the relaxation of the situation on the Korean peninsula the United States must withdraw all its troops and military setups from South Korea and stop actions which may heighten tension there.

Comrade Jiang Zemin said this in his speech at a banquet arranged by Comrade Kim Il-song at the Kumsusan Assembly Hall today.

We, he stated, hold that the United States should have tripartite talks with the North and the South of Korea and find out a reasonable solution to the Korean question, thus creating favourable conditions for the settlement of the question of Korea's peaceful reunification by the Korean people themselves.

The Communist Party and people of China fully support the important proposal advanced by Comrade Kim Il-song in his New Year address to pull down the barrier between the North and the South, ensure free travel and fully open their doors and convene a North-South top-level conference involving the heads of the authorities and the leaders of political parties, Comrade Jiang Zemin declared.

Delegates Visit Chuche Tower

SK1403193290 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1021 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 14 (KCNA)—Some suite members of the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China today inspected the Tower of the Chuche Idea.

Hearing an explanation about the 170-metre high tower which occupies a vast area on a bank of the River Taedong, the guests went round the tower and group sculptures.

Kim Il-song Confers With Jiang

SK1503041090 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0357 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 15 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, today called on Comrade Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, at the guest house.

He was accompanied by Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Kim Yong-nam, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK, vice-premier of the Administration Council and foreign minister, Choe Kwang, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK and chief of the general staff of the Korean People's Army, Yun Ki-pok, member and secretary of the Central Committee of the WPK, Kim Yong-sun, member of the Central Committee of the WPK and director of a department of the Central Committee of the WPK, Chu Chang-chun, member of the Central Committee of the WPK and ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the DPRK to the People's Republic of China, and Kang Sok-chu, alternate member of the Central Committee of the WPK and first vice-minister of foreign affairs.

Comrade Kim Il-song was greeted at the guest house by Comrade Jiang Zemin and Li Ximing, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the CPC and secretary of the Beijing Municipal Party Committee, Zhu Liang, member of the Central Committee of the CPC and head of its International Liaison Department, Qi Huaiyuan, alternate member of the Central Committee of the CPC and vice-minister of foreign affairs, Zeng Qinghong, deputy director of the General Office of the Central Committee of the CPC, Wen Yezhan, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the DPRK, and other suite members.

Comrade Kim Il-song had a cordial and friendly talk with Comrade Jiang Zemin.

Jiang Meets With Party Cadres

SK1503100490 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0956 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 15 (KCNA)—Comrade Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, on an official goodwill visit to Korea, today met party and state senior officials of our country.

Present there were Yon Hyong-muk, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and premier of the Administration Council; Yi Chong-ok and Pak Song-chol, members of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK and Vice-Presidents; Ho Tam, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the C.C., the WPK; Chon Pyong-ho, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the C.C., the WPK; Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the C.C., the WPK; and Cha Pong-chu, vice-minister of foreign affairs.

On hand were Li Ximing, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the CPC and secretary of the Beijing Municipal Party Committee; Zhu Liang, member of the Central Committee of the CPC and head of its International Liaison Department; Qi Huaiyuan, alternate member of the Central Committee of the CPC and vice-minister of Foreign Affairs; Zeng Qinghong, deputy director of the General Office of the Central Committee of the CPC; Wen Yezhan, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the DPRK.

Comrade Jiang Zemin had a friendly conversation with the Korean party and state cadres in a cordial atmosphere.

Jiang Honors 'Martyrs'

SK1503102090 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1001 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 15 (KCNA)—Comrade Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Communist Party of China, on an official goodwill visit to our country today laid a wreath in the Revolutionary Martyrs' Cemetery on Mt. Taesong.

Participating in the wreath-laying ceremony were the cadres accompanying Comrade Jiang Zemin and suite members.

Present there were Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-president; Kye Ung-tae, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the C.C., the WPK; Kim Yong-sun, director of a department of the C.C., the WPK; and Chu Chang-chun, Korean ambassador e.p. [extraordinary and plenipotentiary] to the People's Republic of China, who are members of the C.C., the WPK; Kim Yang-kon, vice-director of a department of the C.C., the WPK; and Cha Pong-chu, vice-minister of Foreign Affairs.

A guard of honor of the Korean People's Army lined up in the cemetery.

The national anthems of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China were played and Comrade Jiang Zemin, conducting his party, laid a wreath in the cemetery amid the playing of the wreath-laying music.

The participants observed a moment's silence in memory of the revolutionary martyrs who dedicated their lives to the sacred cause for the freedom and happiness of the Korean people.

Then followed a march-past of the guard of honour.

The guests went round the cemetery.

Further on Wreath-Laying

SK1503102990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1005 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Pyongyang March 15 (KCNA)—Comrade Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, now on an official goodwill visit to Korea, laid a wreath at the Friendship Tower today.

The cadres accompanying him and suite members were present at the wreath-laying ceremony.

Officials of the Chinese Embassy here, the member of the Chinese People's Volunteers (CPV) of the Korea-China side to the Military Armistice Commission (MAC) and members of the Liaison Office of the CPV to the MAC were also present. [passage omitted]

A guard of honour of the Korean People's Army lined up before the Friendship Tower.

After the national anthems of the PRC and the DPRK were played, Comrade Jiang Zemin laid a wreath at the tower together with his entourage amid the wreath-laying music.

Those present observed a moment's silence in memory of the CPV martyrs who fell in the Korean war against the U.S. imperialist aggressors.

A march-past of the honour guard followed.

The guests saw round the Friendship Tower.

Jiang Visits May Day Stadium

SK1503104890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1010 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 15 (KCNA)—Comrade Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, on an official goodwill visit to Korea today went to the May Day Stadium and the Mangyongdae School Children's Palace.

The Chinese cadres accompanying Comrade Jiang Zemin and suite members also visited the stadium and the palace.

The Chinese guests were accompanied by Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-president; Kye Ung-tae, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPK Central Committee; Kim Yong-sun, member and department director of the WPK Central Committee; Chu Chang-chun, member of the WPK Central Committee and DPRK ambassador e.p. [extraordinary and plenipotentiary] to the People's Republic of China; Kim Yang-kon, vice-director of a department of the WPK Central Committee; and Cha Pong-chu, vice-minister of Foreign Affairs.

Comrade Jiang Zemin first visited the May Day Stadium amid a warm welcome of the employees.

The guests expressed their deep impressions of the 150,000-seat stadium built as a modern complex of sports and culture.

Comrade Jiang Zemin then went to the Mangyongdae School Children's Palace built in Kwangbok Street.

When the guests arrived at the palace, about 10,000 school children warmly welcomed them, waving flowers.

Circle members of the palace presented flowers to Comrade Jiang Zemin and tied a neckerchief of the Children's Union round his neck.

The guests went round circle rooms, hearing that the palace had been built splendidly as a centre of extra-mural activities of school children under the wise leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea.

In the accordian room, Comrade Jiang Zemin had a picture taken with members of the circle.

Circle members of the calligraphic and embroidery rooms presented souvenirs to Comrade Jiang Zemin.

Comrade Jiang Zemin left a souvenir at the palace.

Kim Il-song Congratulates Gorbachev on Election

SK1503111590 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1101 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 15 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today sent a message of greetings to President Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The message reads:

Rejoicing at your election as president of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics at the third Special Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR, I extend warm congratulations to you on behalf of the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Korean people and on my own.

Your election as the first president of the USSR is of great importance in the social development of your country. I take this opportunity of sincerely wishing you greater success in the future work to promote the people's welfare and defend world peace and security.

I believe that the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation established between the Korean and Soviet peoples through a historical course will consolidate and develop with the passage of time.

White Paper Blames South for Failure of Talks

SK1503111090 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1029 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 15 (KCNA)—The delegation of the North side to North-South sports talks for discussing the question of forming a single team to compete in the 11th Asian Games issued a white paper on March 14. It is entirely because the South side's delegation has all along tried by hook or by crook to frustrate the formation of a single team from the first days of the sports talks, acting on orders from the authorities who do not want a single team, that the talks have been driven into a crisis of rupture at the final stage where the birth of a single team was to be proclaimed and the work of forming the single team now faces the danger of frustration.

Recalling that a total of nine rounds of full-dress talks and six rounds of working-level contacts have been held between the North and the South in over one year since the first talks on March 9, 1989, the white paper sheds full light on who is to blame for the crisis of collapse the talks for the formation of a single team is now facing.

It says:

The basic stand of the South side toward North-South sports talks was to deliberately delay the discussion of the matters and then unilaterally bring the talks to a breakdown on the pretext that time is running out.

Motivated by this insidious stand, the South side has resorted to a delaying tactics from the very beginning by bringing one new problem after another at each talks, making no concessions as regards its demands, and reversing even the already agreed points. Outside the conference room it has all along denied a single team and openly declared its intention to participate in the games separately.

The insincere attitude of the South side found its most blatant expression at the sixth talks held on December 22 last year.

Despite the persistent obstructions of the South side a complete agreement could be reached on a 10-point basic principle for the formation of a single team and detailed procedures of the steering of a joint body for the promotion of a single team at the sixth talks thanks to our side's sincere efforts and unilateral concessions. And the sides went so far as to agree upon holding a working-level contact to arrange the text of the agreement, and signing it at the seventh talks slated for January 18 this year and announcing to the world the birth of a single team.

Toward the end of last year, however, when its attempts to break up the North-South sports talks were foiled, the South side felt very uneasy and resorted to undisguised acts to drive the sports talks to collapse, lost to shame and reason.

At the fourth working-level contact held on January 10, a week before the seventh full-dress talks at which the sides were to sign the agreement and proclaim the birth of a single team at home and abroad, the South side came up with 37 points of new problems which had never been discussed at the full-dress talks under the name of "supplementary principles" and stated it would be impossible to arrange the text of the agreement or to sign it unless the aforesaid points were discussed first.

This was a more outspoken scheme to lead the sports talks to a breakdown.

As far as the contents of the "supplementary principles" brought forward by the South side were concerned, they were all matters which had nothing to do with the formation of a single team.

They included sending a letter to the Organizing Committee of the 11th Asian Games and the Asian Olympic Council informing them that the North and the South would participate as separate teams, in case it is difficult for them to participate in the games as a single team for some unavoidable reasons. This presupposed the failure of the formation of a single team.

The South side which had made two full-dress talks unsuccessful, persistently rejecting our side's demand for totally withdrawing the "supplementary principles" and arranging and signing an agreement, more overtly revealed its intention to break up the talks at the end of January.

Out of a desire to promote the deadlocked North-South sports talks and form a single team at any cost, our side put the following three-point demand of principle to the South side at the ninth round of talks held on February 7:

Firstly, the sides confirm and declare at home and abroad that they would never go to the 11th Asian Games as separate teams but participate in the games as a single team under all circumstances.

Secondly, the South side admit that it has delayed the formation of a single team by coming out with problems which have nothing to do with the talks and problems which the sides agreed to discuss at the joint committee, and totally withdraw the "supplementary principles."

Thirdly, the remarks of sports officials of the South side that they would go to the 11th Asian Games as a separate team be revoked.

This three-point demand of principle of ours was a reasonable demand which could have been met easily by the South side, if it had been willing to form a single team.

The South side, however, categorically rejected our just demand and objected to setting the date of the next round of talks.

The reason is clear why the South side intend to bring the talks to a rupture and go to the 11th Asian Games as a separate team. It is because the delegation of the South Korean Olympic Committee follows the wrong "policy" of the South Korean authorities who oppose national reunification, seek a permanent division and try to create a favorable condition for the "two Koreas" scheme through the "northern policy."

The white paper urges the South side to promptly accept the three-point demand of principle which we raised at the ninth round of talks and come out to the tenth round of talks, if it has the least interest in the formation of a North-South single team.

We express the belief that the world's peaceloving people, sports organizations of all countries and international sports organizations will as ever positively support our just position and efforts for the formation of a North-South single team, stresses the white paper.

No's 'Team Spirit' Visit Incites 'War Fever'

SK1503050290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0454 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 15 (KCNA)—The traitor No Tae-u incited war fever on March 13 when he showed up at puppet army units and units of U.S. forces participating in the adventurous "Team Spirit-90" war maneuvers, according to a radio report from Seoul.

He agitated a war against the North that afternoon when he called at the puppet army units in the midst of war exercises in Yongin District, Kyonggi Province, and at the U.S. imperialist aggression army units participating in the joint maneuvers in Chungju, North Chungchong Province.

The traitor No's "inspection" when huge aggression forces had been deployed in the operational zones and taken a combat posture with the stage of attack in the "Team Spirit-90" just one day off is an anti-national criminal act to egg them on to the provocation of a nuclear war.

It reveals the ugly color of the No group as a clique of war fanatics who do not want peace and peaceful reunification but are hell bent on provocations for northward invasion.

U.S. Marines' Landing Exercise Reported

SK1503054090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0514 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 15 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean military fascist clique on March 14 went over to a stage of attack simulating a northward invasion in their adventurous "Team Spirit 90" manoeuvres, according to a report.

At dawn, they began their frantic landing operation exercise near Pohang simulating a landing on coastal areas of the northern half of Korea with the mobilization of their huge armed forces including the Okinawa-based U.S. Marines, amphibious tanks and helicopters.

Timing to coincide with this, a military commotion simulating an attack on our inland areas took place in the central sector of the front.

They massively mobilized puppet ground force units and "F-4" and "F-16" fighter-bombers in the attack exercise staged that day on the ground and in the sky.

While getting overheated in the three-dimensional striking exercise on the ground, in the sky and sea, the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u military fascist clique describe it as a "defensive exercise" in an effort to mislead the public opinion.

The Korean people and the world's honest-minded people are now keenly watching the enemy's war exercises targetted against the North.

Pyongyang Notes Maneuvers of American Forces

SK1503113590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1056 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 15 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists brought five Guam-based "B-52" strategic bombers on March 13 and another three next day into the sky above South Korea and staged a nuclear air strike exercise, according to military sources.

On March 14, they brought more than 100 fighter planes of all types from their overseas aggression bases in the Pacific into the sky above South Korea and staged a

hysteric bombing exercise for destroying at a stroke the targets in an area similar to the terrain of the northern half of Korea.

On March 15, they deployed the extra-large nuclear-powered aircraft carrier "Carl Vinson" and its escort ships in waters 60 miles east of Pohang of Korea and sent deck planes into the air over the operational zone in succession.

On the same day, the units of the aggression army which landed in Pohang moved into the operational zone to force a river-crossing exercise directed against the North for many hours.

The reckless nuclear war provocation moves of the U.S. imperialists against the North have created a grave situation reminiscent of the eve of a war on the Korean peninsula.

Han Song-yong Attends Meeting of Power Industry

SK1503054690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0508 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 15 (KCNA)—A national meeting of activists in the domain of power industry was held here over March 13-14.

The meeting discussed tasks of developing the nation's power industry to a higher stage and bringing about a new turn in the production of electricity and the construction of power stations to meet the growing needs of the national economy for it satisfactorily, upholding the party's intention.

A report by Yi Chi-chan, chairman of the Power Industry Commission, was followed by speeches at the meeting.

The meeting noted that our power industry has developed to be an independent, powerful industry which is able to meet with credit the needs for electricity of the branches of socialist construction which are rapidly developing in reliance on the fuel and power resources of the country in accordance with the great leader President Kim Il-song's policy of establishing chuche-oriented power bases.

Today large hydraulic and thermal power stations and minor power stations have made their appearance and many ultra-high-tension transmission lines and substations have been built in different parts of the country. As a result, the generating capacity has increased 5.3 times, the transmission line 2 times and the transforming capacity 9.2 times the 1958 figures.

Referring to the tasks to supply electricity more satisfactorily to all branches of the national economy through a powerful drive for increased production of electricity and more than double the generating capacity in a few years to come, the meeting presented practical measures.

Han ssong-yong, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and Kim Yun-hyok, vice-premier of the Administration Council, were present at the meeting.

Industries Increase Production of Necessities

SK1303102590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1013 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 13 (KCNA)—Industrial establishments under the Ministry of Local Industries of Korea are increasing the production of daily necessaries and foodstuff.

According to data available, the gross industrial output value and the total exports increased by 23 percent respectively in February as against the like period last year, taking the provincial general bureau of local industries as a whole.

The output of daily necessaries has markedly increased on the whole in this period, of which that of toilet soap, notebooks and some other goods has more than doubled.

In March, too, the production is kept on a high level.

The output of laundry soap, toothbrush and match in the last one week increased 114, 18 and 6 percent respectively as compared with the same period last month, and that of toilet soap rose several times.

The output of foodstuffs including sweets and cakes has increased considerably.

In the local industrial sector a work is now on to make the most of the existing production capacities and, at the same time, constructing new factories and streamlining them.

According to Yi Kwan-mo, vice-director of the Foodstuff Guidance Department of the Ministry of Local Industries, the Sakju Foodstuff Factory will be reconstructed on an expansion basis along modern lines and a general beverage plant with a capacity of 100,000 kilolitres be built in Pyongyang within this year, and many factories and enterprises including cornstarch factories and fruit processing factories will be further modernized in the future.

Rapid Growth Reported in Industrial Output

SK1403002490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1502 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 13 (KCNA)—The output of rolled steel increased 29 percent and that of power 5 percent in the first two months of this year in Korea above the corresponding period last year.

The output grew 30-50 percent at many industrial establishments of various domains of the national economy including the Taean heavy machine complex in this period.

Industrial production has jumped at a fast speed every year. It went up at an annual average of 12.8 percent in the 60s, 15.9 percent in the 70s and 12.2 percent during the Second Seven-Year Plan (1978-1984). These are graphic figures showing the growth of industrial production.

With a large-scale industrial construction promoted successfully in the second half of the 80s, new production capacities of millions of tons of steel and coal, millions of kws of electric power, tens of thousands of tons of vinalon and tens of thousands of rolling stock were created.

The output of steel, power, tractors, trucks, timber and other major goods and railway freight turnover leaped by between 10 and 60 percent during the 200-day campaign waged from late 1988 and early 1989.

The high-rate growth of the economy wrought the miracle of fulfilling the historical task of socialist industrialisation in postwar 14 years and helped consolidate the foundation of the independent national economy.

All the achievements in economic construction are a fruition of the strict application of the Taean work system, a new system of industrial management in the field of national economy.

The Taean work system is a system under which the factories and enterprises conduct all their management activities under the collective leadership of the party committees and carry out their economic tasks by getting the producer masses on the move through political work. The superiors help their subordinates in a responsible manner and the economy is managed and operated in a scientific and rational way.

The new industrial guidance system that immensely heightened the creative zeal of the producer masses was created by the great leader President Kim Il-song while giving on-the-spot guidance to the Taean heavy machine complex (then the Taean electrical machinery plant) in December 1961.

South Korea

No Tae-u To Conduct Cabinet Reshuffle 19 March

SK1503083590 Seoul YONHAP in English 0822 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 15 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u will conduct a sweeping Cabinet reshuffle Monday, replacing Deputy Prime Minister Cho Sun and most of his economic as well as many of non-economic ministers, a highly-placed government source said Thursday.

The source said No was most likely to make the shakeup Monday morning, just before Kim Yong-sam, his co-leader in the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), leaves for Moscow. With 15 out of 27 Cabinet members involved, it will be the biggest reshuffle since No became president in February 1988. Prime Minister Kang Yong-hoon is likely to be retained.

Before announcing the new lineup, No is expected to inform Kim and the third DLP co-leader, Kim Chong-pil, during a game of golf on Saturday. And the topic is expected to come up when Kang makes his regular report to No on Thursday afternoon. Earlier speculation had said the reshuffle would come on Saturday.

Another government source said Kang is almost certain to be kept on and predicted that Yi Sung-yun, a DLP lawmaker and ex-finance minister, will succeed Cho as deputy premier and economic planning minister.

An Ung-mo, a deputy director of the Agency for National Security Planning, is likely to replace Home Minister Kim Tae-ho while Chong Yong-ui, governor of the Korea Development Bank, and Yi Yong-man, president of the Korea Exchange Bank, are touted as possible successors to Finance Minister Yi Kyu-song.

Other frontrunners for Cabinet posts are Yu Chong-tack, deputy secretary general of the National Assembly, as agriculture, fisheries and forestry minister; Pak Pil-su, former assistant trade and industry minister and currently president of Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, as trade and industry minister; and Yi Yun-taek, senior presidential secretary for administrative affairs, as government administration minister.

The health-social affairs, transportation, energy and resources, construction and legislation portfolios are likely to be given to DLP lawmakers, maybe Sin Sang-u, Hwang Nak-chu, Choe Kak-kyu, Kim Chung-kwon or Chong Tong-song, the official said.

The reshuffle, the first since the new ruling party was inaugurated early last month, is intended to solve Korea's current economic crisis and to "inject fresh air" into national politics, which have been stifled by the creation of a giant ruling party through the merger of the former ruling Democratic Justice Party and two opposition parties.

Eleven ministers, including Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung, Defense Minister Yi Sang-hun and State Minister for Political Affairs Pak Chol-on, are likely to be retained. Also unlikely to be affected by the shakeup are Education Minister Chong Won-sik, National Unification Minister Yi Hong-ku, Culture Minister Yi O-yong, Communications Minister Yi U-chae, Information Minister Choe Pyong-yol and Environment Minister Cho Kyong-sik.

No also plans to reshuffle the presidential staff, including Presidential Secretary General Hong Song-chol. Health and Social Affairs Minister Kim Chong-in is said to have been tapped as new senior presidential secretary for economic affairs to succeed Mun Hui-Kap, who has been nominated to run for the National Assembly in a by-election in Taegu.

Cho Sun Urges No To Seek Economic Reforms

SK1303071090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0637 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 13 (YONHAP)—Deputy Prime Minister Cho Sun, South Korea's top economic planner, urged President No Tae-u Tuesday to push ahead more actively with reforms to narrow income gaps and ease class conflicts rather than returning to growth-oriented economic policies, officials at the Economic Planning Board said.

Cho, who is also economic planning minister, met with No to discuss the basic direction of Korean economic policy, over which he reportedly has had fundamental disagreements with policy-makers from the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) who favor growth-oriented policies. There are mounting reports that No will replace Choe and other economic ministers in a cabinet reshuffle expected this weekend or early next week.

The former professor made a broad range of recommendations to the president on measures to cope with economic difficulties facing the nation, the officials said. Cho was quoted as suggesting the nation should consistently push for economic reforms to correct social inequalities and unfairness rather than shifting to a growth-first policy. He also emphasized the importance of workers bringing industrial peace through self-restraint as well as businesses making efforts to get over economic predicament, they said.

Cho's recommendations contradict moves by DLP policy-makers to switch back to a "growth-first policy," claiming it would treble per capita income over the next 10 years from 5,000 U.S. dollars to 15,000 dollars and that problems such as unfair distribution of wealth can be solved only in the course of rapid growth.

The policy dispute has caused discord between the government and party officials and worried the people, who are already concerned at the uncertain propects for the nation's economy.

DLP Plans To Pass Three Controversial Bills

SK1303032190 Seoul YONHAP in English 0237 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 13 (YONHAP)—The ruling party will use its newly acquired majority to pass three controversial bills, including the politically sensitive Armed Forces Organization Law, through the National Assembly during the current session, despite bitter resistance from the sole opposition party led by Kim Tae-chung, party leaders decided Monday.

Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) co-leaders President No Tae-u, Kim Young-sam and Kim Chong-pil also agreed to dissolve the two ad hoc committees probing the government of former President Chon Tu-hwan and the 1980 Kwangju civil uprising. In addition, the three co-leaders decided to submit the party's amendments to the National Security Law and the Law on the Agency for National Security Planning to the National Assembly even though the ruling and opposition camps have striking differences on the matter.

The moves come as political tensions are running high because the DLP railroaded a bill, the amendment of the military law for reorganizing the command system of the Armed Forces, through the assembly Defense Committee on Monday afternoon. It was the first time the ruling party had forced through a bill since the assembly was inaugurated in 1988.

The opposition had controlled the assembly until January, when the ruling party and two opposition parties merged into the DLP, giving the government a massive majority in an unprecedented political realignment.

A presidential aide told reporters after the meeting that the DLP will try until the last moment to find a compromise with the opposition on the three bills—the local council election law, the Armed Forces Organization Law and the law on compensating victims of the Kwangju uprising. But he strongly hinted at the possibility of referring the three bills to a vote, saying, "We are also making preparations for the possible collapse of negotiations with the opposition."

The ruling party is determined to pass the Armed Forces Organization Law bill to create a chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff with operational control of all military branches, while the chiefs of staff of the Army, Navy and Air Force would be responsible only for administrative affairs.

Kim Tae-chung's PPD [Party for Peace and Democracy] is worried that the amendment may undermine civilian rule, but the DLP claims it would merely strengthen the capability of the Armed Forces. The two parties also differ on the Kwangju compensation bill, especially over the amount of compensation for the victims, and on the national security law and the NSP law. The DLP insists on partial rewriting of the security laws while the PPD, which has dubbed them "undemocratic," demands their complete overhaul.

The opposition party has been issuing warnings that the new ruling party could balk at democratic reforms because it has an overwhelming majority in the National Assembly and has warned the DLP against conducting politics based on its numerical majority. But some DLP officials counter with charges that the PPD is trying to use the merger for a political offensive.

The DLP moves may prompt the PPD to launch an extreme struggle against the government, and analysts expect the resignations of all PPD lawmakers in an attempt to force No to call general elections.

In the short term, muscle-flexing by the DLP is expected to dominate the remainder of the assembly session, which closes on Friday.

Ruling Party Presents National Security Bills

SK1303090990 Seoul YONHAP in English 0859 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 13 (YONHAP)—The Ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) tabled Tuesday three bills, including one containing revisions to the National Security Law, at the special session of the National Assembly.

The other two bills are a revision of the law governing the Agency for National Security Planning [NSP] and the special law on inter-Korean exchanges.

The draft revision of the National Security Law put the concept of an "antistate organization" in a concrete way by defining it as "an organization that is operated under established command system."

Ruling party sources said the revised definition would encompass North Korea and Chochongnyon, the pro-Pyongyang Korean residents' organization in Japan.

The revision seeks to prohibit law-enforcement authorities from punishing acts of praising, encouraging, meeting and communicating with antistate organizations when they were done without evident intention to support those organizations. It also rules that those acts should not be punished simply on belief or impression.

The National Security Law has been criticized as "undemocratic and evil" by opposition politicians and dissident figures and its abolishment or revision has been persistently demanded.

The amendment also guarantees exchanges with the communist bloc by dropping acts of visiting, praising or encouraging communist countries other than North Korea from the list of punishable activities.

The ruling party's revision of the law governing the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP) calls for the establishment of a National Assembly intelligence oversight committee. It also stipulates the political neutrality of the NSP.

The DLP's draft special law on inter-Korean exchanges allows South Koreans to visit North Korea or exchange materials with the North with the approval of the national unification minister.

DLP's Decision on Armed Forces Bill Reversed

SK1303081390 Seoul YONHAP in English 0806 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Seoul, March 13 (YONHAP)—The ruling party, admitting to misjudgment in the face of strong resistance from the opposition, retracted Tuesday its decision to pass a controversial bill for revising the command system of the Armed Forces during the current National Assembly session.

The retreat was made at a meeting of key officials of the Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) in an apparent bid to avoid confrontation with the opposition Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) over the Armed Forces Organization Law, which would create an integral command system. But the government party reaffirmed its decision to pass two bills—on local elections and compensating victims of the 1980 Kwangju civil uprising—despite striking differences between the DLP and PPD, party spokesman Pak Hui-tae said.

The retraction came one day after the DLP railroaded the Armed Forces bill through the assembly Defense Committee after DLP co-leaders President No Tae-u, Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil decided Monday to use the party's newly acquired majority to pass the three bills. The action met stubborn resistance from the PPD, which denounced it as "shameful and illegal" and vowed to struggle against the bill's enactment. [passage omitted]

Paper Examines Military Reorganization Bill

SK1003102990 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 9 Mar 90 p 3

[Editorial: "Reorganization of the Military Command System Needs Careful Review"]

[Text] A heated debate is raging between the governing and opposition parties in the National Assembly over a bill introduced to revise the Armed Forces Organization Law so as to establish a commander-in-chief of defensive forces. The military is the bulwark of the state in the truest sense of the word. Even peace-loving countries that claim to be demilitarized or neutral are forced to have minimal but necessary armed forces, the bulwark of their states. Naturally, even major powers, no matter how powerful they may be, can hardly make light of small and weak countries that have their own armed forces. During World War II, Hitler did not dare to make inroads into the neutral state of Switzerland, even while rampaging through virtually every one of Germany's neighboring countries. It was clear to Hitler that the well-organized and well-trained Swiss Defense Forces would have cost him an excessive price were he to provoke them.

On the contrary, after a blitzkrieg invasion of Czechoslovakia following the Munich Agreement, the German Army was reported to have loudly wondered why the Czechoslovak Armed Forces had fallen so quickly despite the strong fortress built in the Sudetenland. The leadership of the Czechoslovak Armed Forces, under the control of the Czechoslovak president, was only fearful of Hitler, and didn't have the resolve to offer resistance to the German Army. The same can be said of the leadership of our country, which lacked the strong will to resist the Japanese invasion of our country in 1592, and again toward the end of the Yi Dynasty. This being the case, if the Armed Forces exist only as part of the institutions that constitute a state, their presence is meaningless. The Armed Forces should be organized to cope well with realities, and they should have such a footing that they can instantly take the appropriate action in an emergency.

Frankly speaking, it is difficult to say that our Armed Forces are well organized, or that they are on a footing that enables them to take appropriate action instantly in an emergency, even 42 years after they were founded. The military authorities, who have acutely felt the necessity of such things for a long time, have now worked out a bill to revise the Armed Forces Organization Law, whose central idea is to establish the commander-in-chief of defense forces, after hearing expert opinions from people from all walks of life.

Given the importance of the idea of changing the organization of the Armed Forces, some questions have arisen.

The first question concerns the possibility that the reorganization of the Armed Forces may threaten civilian control over the military, and that it may be against the current Constitution. Our Constitution stipulates that the military should remain politically neutral, that the president have the prerogative of supreme command, that the military administration and command have a unified hierarchy, that the military should be under civilian control, and that the composition and organization of the Armed Forces should be entrusted to law. The concern of those who raise this question seems to be that the title of defense chief of staff is not appropriate, and that this office is entrusted with too much power. However, it does not seem to be totally against the Constitution. It is not possible to cite every technical point concerning this question at this juncture. But the defense chief of staff is not considered to be sharply against the Constitution itself or the spirit of the constitution. On the other hand, some are very concerned about the possibility that the defense chief of staff might be quite effective in managing the military, that it might make the military's interference in political affairs easy, and that it threatens civilian control over the military. The military points out that the 16 May and 17 May military coups took place under the existing political system. Nevertheless, it is necessary to more firmly provide a "safety device" in the law.

The second question concerns the interests of the three services of the Armed Forces. In particular, those who have retired from the Navy and the Air Force seem to be sensitive about this issue. They are worried about the possibility that the introduction of the defense chief of staff might put the whole Armed Forces under the control of the Army, that it could break up the traditional cooperative system among the three branches of the Armed Forces, and that it might increase the danger of military intervention in political affairs. However, the ratio of forces for the Army, Navy, and Air Force under the defense chief of staff is to be 2:1:1 from the present ratio of 8:1:1. It is also said that the ratio of budget allocations for the three services will reverse the present practice that gives preponderance to the Army; each will get an equal allotment, or at least the order will be such that the Air Force will get the biggest chunk, the Navy will get the next biggest chunk, and the Army the smallest one. The real question is how the management of the military will be accomplished.

The third question involves practicality and effectiveness. The effective management of the military is all the more pressing given the importance of national security—the constant and undiminishing military threat from the North, the phased pullout and eventual withdrawal of the U.S. Forces in South Korea, and the need for our Armed Forces to work out our own independent military strategy. The reorganization of the Armed Forces should not be done hurriedly or rashly. In a bid to avoid difficulties in reorganizing the Armed Forces, our military may end up adopting the European combined forces system, which does not fit our system. Rather, Israel's unified forces system may suit us better. There must be a more comprehensive and in-depth study of this issue.

Dailies Flay Ruling Party's Passage of Bill

SK1503074290

[Editorial Report] On 14 March, four Seoul vernacular newspapers published editorials critical of the ruling party's unilateral passage of a bill for the revision of the Armed Forces Organization Law at the National Assembly Defense Committee meeting on 12 March.

CHOSON ILBO in its 14 March edition, page 3, carries an 800-word editorial entitled "Is This the True Nature of the Gigantic Ruling Party?" Expressing great shock at the ruling party's unilateral approval of the bill within the National Assembly Defense Committee, the editorial stresses that "sufficient discussions" should have been conducted before a majority vote was applied. The editorial also warns that if the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) attempts to unilaterally pass a bill at an assembly committee meeting by taking advantage of the superior number of assemblymen, it will surely cause condemnation by public opinion outside the assembly. The paper then criticizes the "lightning tactics" of the majority faction in passing the bill. It also urges the DLP to demonstrate the "will for democratization" by taking the current event as a lesson and pursuing "moral conservatism." The editorial concludes by calling on the ruling party to "sufficiently reflect" the opinion of the minority party by sending back the bill at issue for rediscussion.

HANGUK ILBO on 14 March, page 2, carries an 800-word editorial entitled "'The Enormous Ruling Party's Politics' Are Revealed in the National Defense Committee Meeting." Noting that one felt as if seeing a "comedy" while watching the unilateral passage of a revision to the Armed Forces Organization Law at an assembly committee meeting, the editorial condemns the ruling party's act as "irregular" and warns that the "gigantic" DLP should not return to the "old era of authoritarianism."

SEOUL SINMUN on 14 March, page 2, carries an 800-word editorial entitled "We Watch Another

Showing of the Old State of Affairs." The editorial says that the "possibility" of disorder in state affairs may be caused by the ruling party's dictatorship and opposition party's "extreme struggle." The editorial denounces the DLP's "lightning disposal" of the bill as a "deplorable event" that disappoints the people. The paper then pointed out that the ruling party should have gone through "sufficient discussions" between those who agree and those who oppose the bill, adding that its "lightning passage" reflected the "arrogance of the majority." The editorial issues a warning to both ruling and opposition party members, stressing that "the extreme confrontation between the two sides" will obstruct the development of the nation and the people's welfare. The paper concludes by calling on the ruling DLP to give priority to "dialogue and negotiations" with opposition parties and to "accept" the opposition party's plans "to the greatest extent possible."

In its 14 March issue, page 6, HANGYORE SINMUN publishes a 600-word editorial entitled "Snatching-Type Passage by the Snatching-Type Great Combined Conservatives." Denouncing as a "brigand-like act" the passage of a bill by the committee chairman's hurried strike of the gavel, the editorial says that the DLP passed an "important bill" at an assembly committee meeting without conducting proper "discussions for agreement and opposition." The paper then stresses that the "good sense" and enhanced consciousness of the popular masses "would never tolerate" such an act. The editorial concludes by saying that the DLP leadership should "apologize" to the people for its "snatching-type passage" of the bill and avoid making excuses.

Motion Introduced To Dissolve National Assembly

SK0903072590 Seoul YONHAP in English 0650 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 9 (YONHAP)—South Korea's sole opposition party introduced a motion Friday to dissolve the National Assembly and hold general elections, saying the voters must be allowed to give their verdict on the merger of the ruling and two opposition parties into the Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) last month.

"We hereby submit a resolution calling for the resignation of every lawmaker as we regard it as proper that all lawmakers resign because the National Assembly, monopolized by the ruling party against the people's will, has lost its sovereign raison d'etre," said the Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD), headed by Kim Tae-chung.

The resolution denounced the merger, carried out by President No Tae-u and former opposition leaders Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil, as a political coup d'etat that destroyed democracy. The resolution has virtually no chance of passage in the single National Assembly as the DLP has a comfortable majority of 217 of the 299 seats and refuses to go along with PPD demands.

The move is part of a four-stage struggle by Kim Tae-chung to frustrate the merger, which left the PPD alone in the opposition. In his speech at the opening session last month, Kim outlined this struggle: First, appeal to public opinion; second, struggle in the National Assembly; third, begin a nationwide petition drive to collect 10 million signatures; and fourth, make an all-out effort to win local elections due in the first half of the year.

* Kim Yong-sam's Merger Decision Criticized

902C0131A Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 29 Jan 90 p 5

[Article by editorial columnist Kim Myong-kol]

[Text] Mr. Chon Tu-hwan, who became president in August 1980 while proving that "power is where the gun is," won a large number of dissidents over to his side, giving an impression of "great national harmony."

Included in the list of new cabinet members announced in early September 1980 was a name that was particularly noteworthy. It was Mr. Chon so and so, who had been Mr. Kim Tae-chung's chief secretary. The bloody stink was still fresh on the streets of Kwangju, and the fate of Kim Tae-chung, who was waiting a death sentence after being court-martialed for "conspiracy of a rebellion," was hanging in the balance.

Mr. Chon's appointment to the cabinet was certainly a surprise to the public. As reporters swarmed in searching for answers for the public's anxiety, Mr. Chon said something like this, "My association with the opposition party was an attempt to expand the horizon of my convictions. At a time when the new government wants to break out of the conventional framework of party politics involving the government and opposition parties, I do not think I should wait to serve until the opposition party comes into the power."

Since he did gain the opportunity to expand his "influence," he might have enjoyed a personal fortune. But the public deserted him. Wherever he is now, it has become hard to find his name in any political circle.

The president of the Reunification Democratic Party, Kim Yong-sam, has been playing the role of a pillar of the opposition circle. Now that he has gained a chance to expand his "influence," he has joined the government circle. Since this is quite a shock, it has become a key topic of conversation wherever the people meet, from family gatherings to celebrate the New Year to the places of the "go" game. In general, the talks revolve around two questions; should we understand his decision as a "transformation" or should we brand it as "treachery"?

Those who try to understand it as a "transformation," although they do not take it in a positive sense, seem to hope that he will be more effective in his attempt to realize the goal of working for freedom and justice if he works within the government circle. On the other hand,

those who brand him as a "traitor" conclude that he has temporarily become blind with power and has traded his integrity and chosen a road to self-destruction.

If indeed his choice is looked at as treachery to the public, we are anxious to know how much thought he has given to such a risky decision that could lead to irreparable ruin. However, it is easy to see that one of the most significant factors affecting his decision will be his determination to win the psychological competition with Mr. Kim Tae-chung. It is highly probable that he has taken the risk based on his judgement that this could be the golden opportunity to alienate Mr. Kim Tae-chung.

But a frustrating question is why he crossed "the bridge of no return" despite the perceived risk of being branded as a "traitor." His explanation that his decision was based on a "save-the-nation drive" is not persuasive. It is hard to understand why Mr. Kim Yong-sam is crying loudly for "national salvation" at a time when few people believe we are in a crisis that necessitates a "determination to save the nation." His speech on the "need to change the way we think" and his quote of Gorbachev's concerning "new ideas" seem to reflect all this.

We have seen cases where trusted political leaders, because of misjudge, have frequently dashed people's hopes when political power appeared to be within reach. We suspect that Mr. Kim Yong-sam temporarily lost his ability to maintain cool and rational judgment when the ruling party made a proposal to share part of its vested rights.

There is an old saying, "A person is judged by the latter half of his life." We have seen plenty of cases where faithful, respected politicians planted a deep distrust of politicians in the public mind by forgoing their integrity during their later years. Mr. Kim Yong-sam should have been more patient and should have kept striving quietly for antidictatorial democratization. Was he too hasty?

He is now on the other side of the bridge of no return. Some people hope he will faithfully strive to carry out the promises he made while a part of the opposition circle. However, it is still questionable as to what extent his concerns will be heard by the government circle.

Moreover, while watching the televised broadcast of President No's announcement of the results of the Chongwadae [Blue House] talks on the merging of the three parties, with Mr. Kim Yong-sam "standing at attention" along with Mr. Kim Chong-pil on both sides of President No, a lot of people probably felt aghast at his "quick change to the upright style of the government circle."

Mr. Kim Yong-sam used to like the phrase "great road without a gate." He even enjoyed brush-writing it. Those who welcome a great alliance of the conservatives might want to see the merging of the three parties as something like a glorious revolution; however, judging from the process of reorganizing the gigantic government party that has been built in haste, things do not seem to be moving smoothly. As I hear creaking sounds, I tend to think that the road Mr. Kim Yong-sam has chosen is not a "great road."

Poet Cho Chi-hun once wrote about a traitor in his "Discourse on Integrity." The following is an excerpt from his writing.

"Every traitor has a plausible excuse. The people with a higher calling say, 'I could act like Paek-i or Suk-che. But if I starved to death, who would look after the people?' This type of reasoning can be likened to the old saying, 'Nothing ventured, nothing gained.' The next group includes those who say, 'Since the outdoor fighting has become futile, we must fight indoors.' Those who are least committed say, 'All right then, I will join the powerholders to acquire some rights and interests and will just take good care of my family.'"

Polish Officers Arrive To Observe 'Team Spirit'

SK1303113690 Seoul YONHAP in English 1124 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Pohang, South Korea, March 13 (YONHAP)—Two Polish Army officers visited Tuesday a South Korean Marine Corps unit near this southeastern port city on the first leg of their trip for observing the annual joint South Korea-U.S. military exercise, "Team Spirit."

Upon their arrival at the Marine Corps 9118th Unit, Cols. Roman Jozwick and Maciej Petrkat [names as received] were briefed by commanding officers of the unit on the progress of the ongoing military drill. The two Polish officers, who came here to observe a joint Korea-U.S. landing operation, were told by the commander of the Marine unit during the briefing that the Team Spirit exercise is aimed at beefing up readiness to jointly cope with threats posed by the North Korean communists.

The Polish officers flew to Seoul Monday and became the first military personnel from any communist-bloc country to respond to the South Korean Government's offer to observe the Team Spirit exercise.

South Korean President No Tae-u said in his New Year press conference that Seoul would invite China, North Korea and the four Armistice Supervisory Commission member countries to send their respective observation teams to this spring's Team Spirit exercise.

Poland is a member of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission for the Armistice Agreement of the Korean war (1950-1953).

The Polish team will observe a Korea-U.S. Air Forces' emergency take-off and landing operation on an expressway and visit key Korean and American military bases and industrial complexes.

The annual military drill has officially been said to be a defense-oriented maneuver. North Korea has suspended

all inter-Korean talks unilaterally, accusing the military exercise as a war game of aggressive nature.

Observation Dispels Misgivings

SK1403011490 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 14 Mar 90 p 8

[Editorial: "Open Access to 'Team Spirit'"]

[Text] Denial of free access to a certain place or event implies secrecy. Granting open access naturally means there is nothing shady to be concealed. Openness, candor and honesty are the main ingredients of a free and just society.

The Republic of Korea and the United States have repeatedly made it clear that the two allies have nothing to hide from outsiders with regard to the annual Korea-U.S. joint military exercise by inviting representatives from other countries to come and observe the exercise—even North Korea and its friends who were usually regarded as Seoul's adversaries.

Regrettably, Pyongyang and Beijing have turned down the invitation on less than plausible grounds. This time, however, our sincere and positive overture received the first response from Poland, which sits on the four-member Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission charged with the function of overseeing the Korean Armistice.

The Defense Ministry said that two Polish Army officers arrived here earlier this week on an observation mission. The pair will witness a landing exercise and emergency takeoff operations and pay a visit to one of the North Korean infiltration tunnels on the central front line.

It is a significant and heartening development that Poland became the first East bloc nation to join other representatives to observe and confirm the defensive nature of the Team Spirit exercise, which will be watched by 27 foreign military attaches stationed in Seoul and those posted to Japan, India, Brazil and Switzerland.

Their presence at Team Spirit '90 will help prove to skeptics and critics that the exercise is not aggressive and does not involve "nuclear training." Seoul and Washington resolved this year to scale down Team Spirit '90 in pursuit of East-West detente and inter-Korean dialogue.

Taking no account of the defensive and limited character of the annual military exercise, North Koreans have made it a rule to suspend all talks with the South for the duration of the exercise they consider provocative without foundation.

There is no reason for Pyongyang to reject an invitation to Team Spirit, and instead make only negative propaganda capital out of it. NATO and the Warsaw Pact have agreed on mutual inspection of military maneuvers. Observation of the Team Spirit exercise by more outsiders will enable an objective assessment. It should dispel groundless misgivings about the exercise and clear the way for confidence-building between the South and the North of Korea.

Discussion of U.S. Cutback, Base Relocation

SK1503071990 Seoul YONHAP in English 0701 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 15 (YONHAP)—South Korea and the United States discussed security cooperation Thursday, including the reduction of U.S. troops stationed in Korea and the transfer of peacetime operational command to the Korean Armed Forces, a Foreign Ministry official said. The four-member high-level committee focused on ways to give the Korean Armed Forces a greater role, including adjustment of the operational control system, and on early conclusion of an agreement on the relocation of the U.S. military base at Yongsan in downtown Seoul to a location outside the capital, he said.

Defense Minister Yi Sang-hun and Acting Foreign Minister Yun Chong-ha represented Korea while U.S. Ambassador Donald Gregg and Gen. Louis Menetrey, commander of U.S. Forces in Korea, were the American participants.

On relocation of the Yongsan base, the Defense Ministry and the U.S. side are negotiating in hope of reaching a conclusion in the first quarter of the year, the official said.

In Thursday's meeting, they recognized that considerable progress has been made concerning pending issues and agreed working-level officials of the two sides will discuss details. They confirmed the position that North Korea should take affirmative measures corresponding to the recent decision to reduce U.S. troop strength in Korea and the scope of the annual "Team Spirit" exercise, he said.

Public Hearing on Reduction of U.S. Forces

SK1503021690 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 15 Mar 90 p 2

[Text] Despite tense confrontation between the ruling and opposition parties over local issues, the National Assembly yesterday held a public hearing on the scheduled reduction of U.S. forces in Korea. The session organized by the Assembly Committee on Foreign Affairs and Unification was to be followed by another public hearing on the controversial legal status of third-generation Korean residents in Japan Friday.

Opening the yesterday's session, Rep. Kim Hyon-uk, who chairs the Assembly committee, said the public hearing is designed to hear view of scholars and experts on the matter, which should be helpful for the committee.

The Korean and U.S. governments have announced that about 5,000 U.S. soldiers will be withdrawn from Korea over the next three years.

All four panelists in yesterday's session said continued presence of U.S. forces in Korea is necessary in order to maintain military balance between the south and the north and peace on the peninsula. However, they admitted that the reduction of U.S. forces in Korea, even if on a step-by-step basis, is inevitable because of the global developments.

Yim Tong-won, president of the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security, said the government is required to use the U.S. forces reduction as a bargaining chip in negotiations with north Korea, while maintaining power balance. The government should continue efforts for improving relations between the divided halves of Korea though Pyongyang is yet to show signs of discarding its hostile posture toward Seoul, Yim said.

His view was shared by other panelists, including Prof. Chong Chong-uk of Seoul National University. He said the reduction of U.S. forces in Korea should be paced with improvement in relations between the south and north.

The proposed relocation of the U.S. Second Division to a rear area is undesirable. The division's deployment in the front-line area now means an automatic involvement in a conflict if the north decides to invade south again, he said. Chong also warned the U.S. forces reduction may touch off the north's military actions against the south based on misjudgment on the power balance on the peninsula.

Rep. Pak Yong-kyu said the Korean and U.S. government need to reach an agreement on the proper level of Korea's payments for the cost needed for maintaining U.S. forces in Korea. Korea's payments in 1988 totaled $2,219 million but the figure included $1,942 million in charges for land and facilities used by the U.S. forces. Korea's share in payments for U.S. forces here is a major issue pending between the two countries.

End to Political Surveillance Promised

SK0803021490 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 8 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] Top government intelligence chief So Tong-kwon testified yesterday that the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP) will keep its hands off political surveillance and devote itself to is original duties of maintaining national security. The NSP director admitted that the intelligence agency perpetrated some wrongdoings under the past authoritarian regimes. "It was against the original purpose of the NSP and the laws governing it," So said. However, he made clear his opposition to a move by the opposition Party for Peace and Democracy to restrict the function and rights of the NSP. He was responding to opposition lawmakers' call for an immediate stop to political surveillance which they alleged was resumed by the NSP recently, during a meeting of the Assembly Defense Committee.

"I don't deny that there were some wrongdoings in the operation of the NSP during the past authoritarian regimes. The NSP will now reflect upon itself and strictly maintain political neutrality in order to be faithful to its original duties," said So.

He claimed that the restriction of the investigative function of the NSP would bring about a danger to the national security at a time when the collection of more information is needed in view of recent relations with North Korea.

"Instead, I think it desirable to strengthen the parliamentary inspection and supervision of the NSP by installing an information committee in the Assembly," So opined.

The revision of the law governing the NSP, along with the controversial National Security Law, is a major bone of contention. The ruling Democratic Liberal Party is seeking to set up an information committee in the Assembly which will inspect the NSP, while Kim Tae-chung's PPD has insisted that its investigative powers be restricted.

The Defense Committee and a dozen other Assembly panels continued to hear reports from ministries about state affairs yesterday. In a report to the Transportation-Communications Committee, An Kong-hyok, chief of the Korea Maritime and Port Administration, said that the government plans to open regular passenger boat service with mainland China in preparation for the Beijing Asian Games in September.

The government will also seek to open a regular sea route between Pusanand Nahodka, a far eastern port city of the Soviet Union, according to An.

Committee Recommends Joining UN Rights Pacts

SK0903023790 Seoul YONHAP in English 0153 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 9 (YONHAP)—The National Assembly Foreign Affairs-Unification Committee recommended Friday that South Korea become a signatory to three United Nations pacts on human rights.

The committee unanimously passed a resolution on signing the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (called "A Covenant"), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (called "B Covenant") and an optional protocol on B Covenant with reservations on clauses that contradict Korean law.

If the resolution is endorsed by the full assembly and Korea becomes a signatory, the government will be required to submit regular reports to the U.N. Human Rights Committee on Korea's human rights situation and on measures taken to implement the covenants.

Signatories are also obliged to allow a U.N. delegation to look into the nation's human rights situation, if necessary.

A Foreign Ministry official said signing the three pacts will improve Korea's image regarding human rights.

A Covenant, with 92 signatories, stipulates that a member nation must guarantee its citizens economic, cultural and social rights and present reports to the U.N. secretary-general on the observance and implementation of the rights and obligations contained in the covenant.

Under B Covenant, signed by 87 nations, one country can bring a claim on any other country's human rights situation to the U.N. committee.

The resolution reserved four clauses of B Covenant—the right to organize, limited by laws for public officials and teachers; the right to appeal, limited by the constitution in an emergency situation; the principle of not subjecting a person to a double jeopardy; and equal rights for spouses. The government will retract the reservation when the relevant laws are revised, the official said.

Seoul To Join European Development Bank

SK0903015790 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 9 Mar 90 p 8

[Excerpts] Korea will join 34 advanced countries in founding the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) projected mainly to help East European countries successfully undertake economic reforms, Finance Minister Yi Kyu-song said yesterday.

A Korean delegation was invited by the EBRD preparation committee to visit France to attend the second preparation meeting slated for Saturday and Sunday in Paris, he disclosed. He told the reporters that EBRD membership would pave the way for Seoul to switch from the current binational to multilateral cooperative relations with East European countries. At present, external trade by the East European countries accounts for around 10 percent of all Europe's trade, but they have great potential for high growth, he said.

From a far-sighted point of view, Yi explained, the membership of the regional banking organization would contribute to stepping up cooperative exchanges with all European nations after the creation of a single market and after the reunification of East and West Germany.

It is yet to be decided how much Korea will contribute to the establishment of the EBRD, scheduled to be born sometime this year. A senior ministry official only revealed that a certain amount deemed suitable to Korea's economic strength will be donated. The regional bank will be established with paid-in capital of $12 billion. [passage omitted]

The invitation by the EBRD preparation committee is in response to the Seoul government's indication that it would like to join Western nations in establishing the regional bank for East European countries.

Trade With Communist Nations Doubles From 1987

SK1003062790 Seoul YONHAP in English 0620 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 10 (YONHAP)—Trade with communist nations has doubled since South Korea launched its "northern policy" diplomatic outreach in 1987, the Foreign Ministry said Saturday. Two-way trade totaled 4.2 billion U.S. dollars in 1989, up from 2.1 billion dollars in 1987—3.14 billion dollars with China and 600 million dollars with the Soviet Union—the ministry report said.

As of Feb. 21, Korean investment in communist nations amounted to 120 million dollars in 38 projects, up from 36 million dollars in 1987, while negotiations are under way on some 70 projects with the Soviet Union, China, Hungary and Poland, it said.

Some 15,000 people from communist states visited Korea last year, a ninefold rise from 1,600 in 1987, while 14,000 Koreans traveled to communist nations, up 175 percent from 800 in 1987, it said.

Korea concluded agreements on investment guarantees, pacts on trade and economic cooperation and accords on scientific and technological cooperation with Poland and Hungary last year and is seeking conclusion of such agreements with Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia this year, the report said. Korea is negotiating aviation agreements with Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia, it added.

Kim Yong-sam To Meet Various Soviet Officials

SK1403075290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0740 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 14 (YONHAP)—Kim Yong-sam, a co-leader of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), will meet with Soviet Politburo Member Aleksandr Yakovlev, a top foreign policy adviser to President Mikhail Gorbachev, and with the deputy prime minister responsible for the economy when he visits Moscow next week, a government source said Wednesday.

Kim will also meet with Yevgeniy Primakov, chairman of the Federal Supreme Council, but the Kremlin has said a meeting with Gorbachev will be impossible because of the Soviet leader's tight schedule, the source said.

Kim first visited Moscow last June, when he was head of the opposition Reunification Democratic Party. On his second trip to the communist country March 20-27 he travels as one of three co-leaders of the ruling party. He leaves Seoul on Monday.

The meetings were set up during talks between Ambassador [as received] Kong No-myong, chief of the Korean

Consular Department in Moscow, and Vladlen Martynov, Kim's host in Moscow and director of the Soviet Institute for World Economy and International Relations, he said.

The source said a meeting with Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov was also unlikely due to domestic problems of the communist country, including Lithuania's declaration of independence.

The inclusion of the unnamed deputy premier among the Soviet leaders Kim is to meet reflects Moscow's emphasis on economic cooperation with Seoul, the source said. Unlike last time, the Kremlin is showing a keen interest in this visit as Kim now jointly heads Korea's ruling party, he said.

TASS Chief Confirms Concrete Wall's Presence

SK1503064790 Seoul YONHAP in English 0635 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 15 (YONHAP)—"With my naked eye, I saw a concrete wall more than five meters high and extending some 2.5 kilometers south of the truce line, and confirmed that the Korean peninsula is a region of immense tension," Vladimir Kouchko, the Tokyo bureau chief of the Soviet news agency TASS, said Wednesday.

"North Korea also has a concrete wall, I believe, although I have not ascertained it," he said. "No one else in the Soviet Union has said a concrete wall like the Berlin Wall exists on the Korean peninsula." Kouchko and a few other foreign journalists were invited to see the wall, which South Korean officials describe as an anti-tank barrier, by the Defense Ministry.

Touching on Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's remarks about the wall, the TASS reporter said Shevardnadze's reference was to a comprehensive wall, including the political meaning of division of the peninsula as well as a concrete wall, and there should be no more misunderstanding on this matter. Shevardnadze said in February after talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that the international community should aim to break down the "Korean wall."

Regarding who will be appointed to head the Soviet consular department in Seoul, Kouchko said he believes that a senior official of the Soviet Foreign Ministry who is informed on Korean affairs will be named, predicting the chief of the department is likely to be here late this month or by early next month. It is rumored that Yuriy Fadeyev, the ministry's deputy chief of socialist countries in Asia, may be chosen to head the consular department.

"At this stage, it is difficult to predict the timing of the establishment of diplomatic ties between South Korea and the Soviet Union," he said. "Normalization of relations between our nations requires progress in the situation on the Korean peninsula and expanded exchanges in various fields, including economy and culture, between Seoul and Moscow."

On the upcoming trip to Moscow by Kim Yong-sam, a co-leader of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party, he said, "Partial progress will be made in relations between the two countries by Kim's trip to the Soviet Union."

On the possibility of a meeting between the Soviet and Korean foreign ministers, Kouchko said the possibility of the foreign ministers meeting will be determined by the results of Kim's trip to Moscow.

Trade Offices To Open in Berlin, Seoul

SK1503073790 Seoul YONHAP in English 0723 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 15 (YONHAP)—South Korea and East Germany have agreed to open trade offices in Berlin and Seoul, respectively, in the first half of the year, a Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (Kotra) spokesman announced Thursday.

A delegation headed by Kotra President Yi Sun-ki will visit East Berlin on April 2 to conclude an agreement on mutual trade cooperation that will cover the opening of the trade offices, he said. The accord will be signed by Yi and Hans-Joachim Lemnitzer, president of the East German Chamber of Foreign Trade. The spokesman said Korea will assign three officers to its center, which is expected to act as a trade mission after the reunification of the two Germanys and as a stronghold for trade relations with Europe experiencing changes.

Foreign Minister Meets Deng's Son on Plane

SK1403014890 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 14 Mar 90 p 2

[Text] Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung happened to meet with Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping's son on an plane en route to Pakistan from Beijing after a brief stopover at a Beijing airport Monday, officials accompanying him reported to the Foreign Ministry yesterday. He chatted with Deng Pufang for a while but failed to exchange views on bilateral relations because of Deng's poor English.

The younger Deng, who had his legs crippled during the Cultural Revolution, climbed aboard a Pakistan International Airlines jetliner with the support of his bodyguards and took a seat alongside Choe and his wife in the first class lounge. Deng, head of a Chinese society for physically handicapped people, was to attend a meeting in Islamabad. Deng looked surprised when he was accosted by Choe but exchanged business cards with him quickly, the report said.

The Foreign Ministry officials, who are eager to improve relations with China and the Soviet Union as soon as possible, alleged it is a good sign for the development of ties that China offered the use of an airport VIP suite for Choe's meeting with U.S. Amb. James Lilley and the

minister happened to meet the son of the paramount Chinese leader. But observers said that the VIP suite was offered chiefly for Lilley, a close friend of U.S. President George Bush, rather than for Choe.

Effects of Jiang Zemin's Visit on North Viewed

SK1403021290 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 13 Mar 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Jiang Zemin's Visit to Pyongyang"]

[Text] The world was surprised at the enormous changes late last year when socialist countries in Eastern Europe were swept by the waves of reform and openness. Shortly after, public attention was turned to mainland China and North Korea. However, Beijing authorities who have not completely overcome the shock of the 4 June Tiananmen incident, are currently adhering to conservatism and hard-line policies. North Korea is also, as it has in the past, presently deliberately avoiding the epoch-making 'drastic changes' and persistently carrying out a closed-door policy. Presently, General Secretary Jiang Zemin of the CPC will visit Pyongyang and meet with Kim Il-song. This is of great interest to us.

Currently with the Soviet Union as the starting point, the waves of breaking away from the cold war and implementing various reforms that have strongly hit the socialist bloc in Eastern Europe have finally moved even Albania, which was classified as the last of the conservative hermits. This kind of movement is at last being carried out in Mongolia and in Cuba, which is situated on the other side of the ocean. The only socialist countries that have not given up their communistic dictatorships and are taking a hard-line attitude are China and North Korea. Therefore, it is inevitable for Jiang Zemin and Kim Il-song to meet and hold discussions. Right at this time, there are rumors at home and abroad about the official succession of power between father, Kim Il-song, and son, Kim Chong-il, and of North Korea examining ways for partial reform. Internationally, it has long been generalized that it is inevitable for North Korea to open its doors sooner or later.

It is the same with China. Currently China is undergoing conflicts between ideology and reality. China is pledging that it will not give up its socialist line but is in a position where it cannot maintain its economy without cooperation from Western countries. It is inevitable for China to open its doors because of economic necessity, but control is being tightened in various fields to maintain its political system. As North Korea's Kim Il-song is further intensifying ideological indoctrination among the people to maintain and adhere to the dictatorial and successional systems of the past 40 years, the Beijing authorities are strengthening conservatism and dictatorship to prevent a recurrence of the Tiananmen incident.

Therefore, it is not difficult to guess what Jiang Zemin and Kim Il-song will talk about and what promises they will exchange in their meeting. As Kim Il-song promised to support Deng Xiaoping's method of deterring the Tiananmen incident in his visit to Beijing in November of last year, this will be reconfirmed and both will oppose the reform lines of the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, and Mongolia. As compensation for this, Kim Il-song will request the Beijing authorities to support his father-son succession system. Behind closed doors, Jiang Zemin will probably console and encourage the internationally-isolated Pyongyang side and confirm the so-called four-point principles toward Korea—principles which comprise a consistent policy line for the Beijing authorities. Nevertheless, Jiang Zemin inevitably will have to explain to the North Korean side the Sino-Korean openness and exchanges, which began with the 1988 Seoul Olympics, as well as China's position on establishing diplomatic relations with Korea. This is indeed a dilemma which the conservative authorities of Pyongyang and Beijing have in common. The authorities of Pyongyang and Beijing must find a solution to this problem.

Ultimately, the only way to solve this problem is by 'change.' It would be particularly good for North Korea if this were carried out as soon as possible. Historically, the relationships between Pyongyang and Beijing and Pyongyang and Moscow have not been set policy. Depending on the effectiveness of maintaining the North Korean system and its strategy toward the South, Kim Il-song adjusted the distance between Pyongyang and Beijing and Pyongyang and Moscow. Currently Kim Il-song is adhering closely to Beijing and looking away from the strong wave of perestroyka. However, as it is with history and time, it is inevitable for North Korea to change. There is nothing else for North Korea to do but to change.

Political Talks To Take Priority Over Summit

SK1503074690 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 15 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] It was disclosed on 14 March that, for the time being, the government will concentrate its efforts on the realization of high-level North-South talks, for which preliminary talks had already been initiated, rather than on the early realization of summit talks. This was based on its analysis that it will be impossible to realize North-South summit talks unless a fundamental change in North Korea's power structure comes about.

Some observers strongly claim that Kim Chong-il is expected to come into power around the time of North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] session in April or its seventh party congress, which will be held next year at the latest. In view of this possible change that may take place in North Korea, the government is expected to concentrate its diplomatic efforts on the establishment of diplomatic relations with China and the Soviet Union.

Despite the nordpolitik for the past two years that has turned the diplomatic environment surrounding the Korean peninsula definitely in favor of South Korea, North Korea has not shown any tangible change in its

strategy toward the South. Based on this assessment, the government has decided to put pressure on the North for change and openness.

This government policy was formulated through a "situational analysis" in joint discussions by high-ranking officials of such concerned authorities as the Foreign Ministry, the Defense Ministry, the National Unification Board, and the Agency for National Security Planning, which have met since the beginning of this year, and this policy was passed on at the overseas-based diplomatic envoys' meeting held 2-7 March.

A high-ranking government official, commenting on this, noted that "the difference of views as to the form and procedure of the political consultative conference participated in by the highest-level people in authority of the North and South has not been narrowed." He then added that "since we anticipate a change in North Korea's power structure around the time of the SPA elections in April and the seventh party congress next year, we have decided not to hasten our efforts for summit talks."

Another high-ranking government official said, "Even if summit talks between the North and South are realized, we can hardly expect substantive improvement in relations between the North and the South unless North Korea abandons its present four military lines and its strategy of communizing the South." This official also stressed that "the government will concentrate its efforts on realizing high-level talks in which it will be possible to discuss issues in a practical manner, with the participation of the ministers of Foreign Affairs, National Defense, and the National Unification Board."

So far, the South Korean side has insisted on holding North-South summit talks as soon as possible. Meanwhile, the North Korean side has insisted on holding a political consultative conference in the form of a joint meeting, which would be attended by the heads of the authorities and political parties of the North and South, as well as talks between the highest-level officials of the North and South, with these both sets of talks running concurrently.

It has also been disclosed that the government has already informed its allies, such as the United States and Japan, of this policy, and has requested the United States to convey this ROK Government position to the Soviet Union at the U.S.-Soviet summit talks, which are expected toward the end of May. This is to be done in the hope that the Soviet side will "increase its pressure" on North Korea to open itself up

Documents Link Philippine Rebels to Pyongyang

SK0903015190 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 9 Mar 90 p 2

[Text] Documents seized by Philippine authorities recently contain evidence of North Korea's continuing efforts to meddle in the internal affairs of other countries and export terrorism, north Korea watchers here said yesterday.

Quoting documents recently released to the press by Philippine military authorities, they said that the North Korean Workers Party and the Philippine Communist Party met in a third country in Asia in the fall of 1986 and again in May 1987 which resulted in closer collaboration and weapons for the Filipinos. Under the terms of a pact between the two, they went on to say that the north Koreans agreed to supply the military wing of the Philippine party with weapons and to train Filipino terrorists.

At the first party-to-party meeting, according to the North Korea watchers, the Philippine group was led by exiled Communist official Sixto Carlos, while the leader of the north Korean delegation was Ho Tam, described as an alternate member of the north Korean Politburo.

Quoting the documents reportedly seized by the Philippine military authorities during a raid on a rebel hideout late last year, they disclosed that at the second meeting the Philippine Communists were represented by Jose Maria Sison, exiled chairman of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and Romulo Kintanar, head of the party's military wing, the New People's Army whereas the north Koreans were led by Kye Ung-tae, another alternate member of the Politburo.

"The captured documents show that during the second meeting the north Koreans agreed to supply the New People's Army with weapons, including antiaircraft missiles, and volunteered to help smuggle the weapons into the Philippines," a north Korean affairs expert said on condition of anonymity.

In return, the Philippine Communists agreed to supply north Korea with "sensitive" information on United States's bases and personnel in the Philippines and to organize a campaign to support the reunification of north and South Korea under a Pyongyang formula, which is characterized by communized unification of Korea as stipulated by the north Korean constitution.

First Shipment of North Goods Arrives Via China

SK1403093290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0829 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 14 (OANA-YONHAP)—The first shipment of North Korean goods to be shipped to South Korea directly from China arrived at the west coast port of Inchon on Monday.

A Sino-Korea transshipping firm said Wednesday that the freighter "Mild Splendour" of the China National Foreign Trade Transportation Corp. (Sinotrans) carried the goods from Dalian, where a North Korean ship discharged them last December.

The Seoul office of Sinokor, a Korea-China 50-50 joint venture shipping and freight handler, said the North

Korean goods, with a market value of 156,600 U.S. dollars, are the first shipment since the opening of the Korea-China direct sea route in June 1989. North Korean goods were previously transshipped in Hong Kong or Singapore, an official in the shipping agent said.

The 40 tons of goods include 1,000 sacks of ginseng tea (4,000 dollars), 20,000 bottles of ginseng wine (80,000 dollars), 57 pieces of chinaware (37,403 dollars), 346 handicraft articles (16,151 dollars) and 2,000 bottles of beer (1,000 dollars), the Sinokor official said.

The deal was made between Sinotrans and the South Korean Government-backed Korea Trading International Inc. through a Korean-American intermediary, while the shipping was taken care of by Sinokor, which came into its existence in Hong Kong in May 1989 in response to rising Sino-Korea trade.

"Orders for North Korean goods, usually handicrafts and agricultural products, from businesses have piled up, but the too-complicated processes get in our way," said the official. According to his explanation, North Korean goods can be transshipped only on a customs-clearance basis, which means they must enter China and then be re-exported.

The direct Korea-China sea route has three sailings a month between the Korean ports of Inchon and Pusan, and the Chinese ports of Shanghai, Tianjin and Dalian.

TV, Newspaper Contact With North Approved

SK1403093890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0814 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 13 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government approved Wednesday two separate applications, by a newspaper publisher and the president of a broadcasting company, for permission to contact North Korean people.

Choe Chang-pong, president of Munhwa Broadcasting Corp. (MBC), had applied in January to the National Unification Board for permission to contact Kim Kyong-pong, president of the North's Korean Academy of Sciences, in connection with MBC's plan to make a geological research on a crater lake (Chonji) on the top of Mt. Paektu near the North Korean border with China.

Chang Kang-chae, president of HANGUK ILBO, a vernacular daily, had applied last month for approval of a meeting with Kim Tae-hyon, chairman of Pyongyang's Korean Athletics Association, to invite a North Korean team to attend a sports meet to be sponsored by the paper in November.

* Conglomerates' Key Personnel Changes Profiled

902C0126A Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 24 Jan 90 p 7

[Article by reporter Pak Se-hun: "'Prospects for This Year's Economy Appear Dim'...Early Managerial Personnel Reorganization"]

[Text] In the first year of the 1990's, domestic conglomerates have already finished the personnel reorganization of their management staffs. As prospects for this year's economy seems darker than at any other time, conglomerates are showing a tendency to invigorate and strengthen a responsible management system by hiring younger managers.

The characteristic of personnel changes early this year is that numerous conglomerates are adopting a chairman system for each subsidiary, increasing the number of company chairmen with professional managerial backgrounds. As the first generation of founding members gradually withdraw from frontline managerial posts, professional managers are expanding their scope of activity to fill the gap.

Large-Scale Employment of Professional Managers

Three years after Chairman Yi Kon-hui of the Samsung Group took office, the Samsung Group promoted Vice Chairman Kang Chin-ku of Samsung Electronics Company to chairman and Vice Chairman Choe Kwan-sik of Samsung Heavy Industries to chairman, thus increasing the number of chairmen of affiliated companies to a total of four, including Chairman Sin Hyon-ho of Samsung Mulsan. In the case of the Samsung Group, the chairman of a subsidiary is not a mere figurehead but a responsible person in each company's actual management.

The Hyundai group, which already has an impressive total of 11 chairmen, including Chairman Chong Chu-yong, added two more. President Yi Yang-sop of Hyundai Automotive, who rose through the ranks from the entry level, moved to the position of chairman of the somewhat less active Hyundai Securities, while Chairman Kwon Yong-chan, who is related to Chairman Chong by marriage (Chairman Kwon is the father-in-law of Chairman Chong's eighth son Mr. Chong Mong-il) was appointed as chairman of Hyundai Heavy Electric Equipment Company,

Vice President Chon Song-won was promoted to president of the Hyundai Automotive, which is the flagship company of the Hyundai Group.

The Ssangyong Group also introduced the vice chairman system for the first time this year. President Kim Chae-kyom, who was one of the two pillars of the group, was promoted to group vice chairman and chairman of Ssangyong Cement, while President Yi Sung-won of Ssangyong Refining, who is the brother-in-law of the Ssangyong Group Chairman Kim Suk-won, was promoted to chairman of the company, thus opening the era of chairmen with professional executive management

background. Vice President U Duk-chang of Ssangyong Cement was promoted to president, and Chang Sukhwan, the director of the group's office of general planning and coordination, was promoted to president of Ssangyong Refining.

As the size of the companies expands rapidly, there are an increasing number of companies that are adopting the "sectional president system" along with the chairmen system of affiliated companies in order to establish a responsible management system. As Daewoo Shipbuilding begins its joint venture with Suzuki Co. of Japan to produce light passenger cars, President Pae Sun-hun of Daewoo Engineering Products was appointed co-president of the automotive sector along with incumbent President Kim Tae-ku.

Prior to this, the Daewoo Group had reorganized its top executives on 1 January by appointing its planning and coordination director, Kim Rae-ku, as president of Daewoo Shipbuilding, former Daewoo Shipbuilding President Yun Yong-sok, who returned from the United States, as the president of Daewoo Trading Company, and Daewoo Company, Ltd. President So Hyong-sok as the director of the group's general planning and coordination.

The Lucky-Goldstar Group also expanded the presidential system according to business sectors: Presidents Hong Chong-son and Pak Won-kun of Goldstar Electric Cable were each appointed to take charge of the heavy industrial sector and the electric cable sector respectively. The group also appointed President Han Song-kap of Lucky Materials as advisor to the chairman for technology for developing high technology and new materials.

Younger Generation of 42 to 45 Years of Age

Along with these developments, there was a conspicuous phenomenon of a generational change of professional executives in this year's management personnel changes. In the case of the Samsung Group in particular, as President Song Se-chang of Samsung Aerospace and President Son Yong-hui of Samsung Petrochemicals withdrew from frontline managerial positions to advisory ones, none of those who were employed through the first public examination remain in managerial positions, giving the public examination 5th and 6th class major control of the group. Currently five from the 5th class and four from the 6th class hold positions as presidents.

Director's Position After 16 Years of Service

In Samsung's case, someone from the 15th class with 16 years of service became a member of the board of directors for the first time, while President Kim Kwang-ho (age 50) of Samsung Semiconductor was the youngest among the top executives. In the Hyundai, Lucky-Goldstar and Daewoo Groups, the ages of the new executive managers have dropped, mostly between the ages of 42 and 45). Thus, it appears that one can reach an executive manager's position after 15 to 16 years with the company.

Besides these, President Im Chong-yom of Goldstar Cable and President Kim Se-chin of Goldstar Parts retired from frontline managerial positions due to health reasons, and President Yu Ki-pom of Daewoo Precision left his current position for overseas training.

This year's personnel reorganization of conglomerate executives took place one to two months earlier than usual. This was done early in order to cope with difficulties facing our economy. However, it is reported that financial sectors of the Daewoo Group such as Daewoo Securities and the Kumsung Company of the Lucky-Goldstar Group will reshuffle their managerial personnel around June.

Burma

General Saw Maung Sends Peasants Day Message

BK0203142190 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 0130 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] General Saw Maung, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council of the Union of Myanmar [Burma], sent a message to the 1990 Peasants Day ceremony. The message is as follows:

To all the esteemed peasantry: The 2nd of March 1990, Peasants Day, is observed in honor of the peasantry throughout the country. On this auspicious day, I extend joyous greetings to all peasants and wish them good health and success in their agricultural activities. The peasantry, which constitutes the largest force in the country, are the laborers who produce the basic food required for the entire population. The agricultural activities of the peasantry constitute the most basic and largest production activity in the country. Therefore, the well-being and development of all peasants must always be ensured and their needs always fulfilled. The peasantry in Myanmar are always striving to improve agricultural production activities in the fields. They have earned an honest living throughout the ages.

During the period of enslavement under colonial rule, the peasants were exploited by the Chettyars, the underlings of the colonial government, and they suffered tremendously. The population in Myanmar was only 10 million during this period of enslavement and annexation of Myanmar by the colonialists, and there were only one million acres of arable land. The arable land increased to about 10 million acres after the fertile virgin land in the country was developed under the pakkar system, the lang system, and the crown colony system, introduced by the imperialists for their own benefit. The system of land ownership was also amended, enabling the transfer of land to foreigners under the settlers system, the free-hold land system, and the leasing of land by grants. Because of the many acres of arable land, the problem of farmer and labor shortage was solved by importing laborers from India, en masse. According to the census of 1937, there were up to one million Indians in Myanmar.

The ruling British Government did not directly give financial assistance to the local Myanmar farmers, but they granted loans of about 700 million to one billion [rupees] annually to about (?1,900) Chettyar companies which came into Myanmar without any form of investment. The Chettyars then exploited Myanmar peasants by granting loans with interest rates ranging from 10 to 12 percent, or with compound interest. Many tons of rice produced with the labor of the Myanmar farmers were bought at a low price by imperialist monopoly companies and then exported for a profit to foreign countries. The colonialists monopolized not only rice in Myanmar, but also exported other precious resources such as teak and crude oil to earn profits. The imperialists became richer and richer. The cost of ruling Myanmar was met, and they were able to raise capital for their own country.

Meanwhile, the Myanmar farmers had to give up to four million acres of farmland to the money-lending Chettyars because they could not repay the loans and interest. The Chettyars not only seized paddy, farming animals, and houses, but also took possession of young unmarried daughters. The imperialist government did not protect the Myanmar farmers, and also it exploited them by collecting human and land taxes. When the paddy prices went down, the peasants lost their homes, their land, and their food, according to historical records. When the peasants could no longer tolerate the oppression of the imperialist government, Saya San, one of the leaders of the Wunthanu Association [nationalist organization], formed Galon [mythical bird] fighting groups composed of peasants, which took up swords, spears, and any available weapons in a revolt from 1929 to 1931. The peasants' insurrection led by Saya San, known as Thubannaka [mythical king of giants], spread to Tharawaddy, Insein, Henzada, Pyay, Pathein, Pyapon, and many other districts. The colonialists had to bring in armed reinforcements from India, and it took them about two years to quell the insurrection. Finally, the patriotic peasants' leaders, including Saya San, were arrested and hanged by the English colonialists. This historical event shall never be forgotten.

Therefore I urge all the peasants who have suffered bitterly under colonialism to join hands with the Defense Services, which was formed with the offspring of the people, in safeguarding the union, national unity, sovereignty, and independence. Political and economic changes are currently taking place in Myanmar. It is necessary to install a system that will serve the interests of the entire people and peasantry. Only when the peasantry, which constitutes the majority in the country, is developed can the country develop. We must give priority to education, health, and social needs; we must secure and smooth the way for the peasants. The State Law and Order Restoration Council is currently endeavoring to develop the peasantry in remote border areas in a short period of time. I urge all peasants in other parts of the country to render their assistance in this endeavor in the spirit of sympathy and joy.

Peasants will be able to vote freely for the candidates of their choice in the forthcoming multiparty democratic general elections. I would like to urge the peasantry to give necessary assistance to the Defense Services for the success of free and fair elections. I solemnly urge all peasants to strive for progress and success in agricultural work—their primary duty—while working for their own interests and the interests of the entire country in a fair manner.

Troops Said To Torch 6 Villages Near Kawkareik

BK0403055290 Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Mar 90 p 2

[Text] Mae Sot, Tak—The Burmese army in the past week burnt down six Burmese border villages in what dissident Burmese students view as the army's retaliation against its repeated failures to capture a Karen stronghold. Thet Hlaing, a dissident student leader of the All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF), said that some Karen villagers, who had fled to Thailand, told him that Burmese troops set fire to 37 houses and several grain stores in six villages near Kawkareik town between Feb 20 and Feb 28. Kawkareik is about 72 kilometers (45 miles) from Myawadi township, which is opposite the Thai border from Mae Sot District of Tak province. All the villages—Mepale, Kyawko, Tiwablaw, Pakalo, Chikaya, Tilawthi—are about 15 kilometers northwest of Kawmura, a Karen stronghold and base for rebels' 101 special battalion, which has resisted repeated Burmese offensives in the past year.

Khin Maung Win, secretary of the ABSDF's Information Department, said the attacks on the villages were retaliation for the Burmese Army's failure to capture Kawmura. Thet Hlaing said Burmese troops from the 118th battalion of the 33rd Division on Feb 28 also rounded up residents from Kyawko and the nearby village of Pakalo and forced them to serve as porters and carry ammunition to the battle fronts. The roundup left at least one villager dead and one wounded. Khin Maung Win said the villagers were only innocent farmers who had not been involved in any fighting. He also said Burmese forces have acted ruthlessly in recent weeks, and their commanders have deliberately ignored their atrocities in order to boost lowered troop morale.

3 Student Rebels Surrender to Government Army

BK0303100990 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] Three persons with the rank of private from the 2d Company of the ABSDF [All Burma Students' Democratic Front] 206th Battalion surrendered themselves and their arms to a military column on security duty at Chaungnakwa village, Kyaikmaraw Township, Mon State on 14 February. They are Khin Soe, aged 20, son of U Tun Than of Kawboke village, Kawkareik Township, who surrendered with one AK-47, one magazine, and 16 rounds of ammunition; Than Aye, aged 23, son of U Tun Aye of Chaungnakwa village, Kyaikmaraw Township, who surrendered with one BA-63 automatic rifle, two magazines, and 32 rounds of ammunition; and Htwe Naing, aged 24, son of U Soe of Phathein village, Kyaikmaraw Township, who surrendered with one AK-47.

The three men joined the ABSDF in September 1989 and were given about five days of basic military training at the 206th Battalion's Maw Kay camp. They were sent to the 2d Company after completing their training and carried out activities at Chaungnakwa village and Phathein area in Kyaikmaraw Township. When the 2d Company of the 206th Battalion was based at Myinetharya village, Khin Soe, Than Aye, Htwe Naing, and two unknown persons from Yangon considered surrendering and escaped on 13 February. However, the remaining group discovered the plot and tried to stop them by shooting. The three escaped but the two persons from Yangon were captured. Later, they learned that the captives were killed by the group from the 2d Company of the 206th Battalion. The three persons realized their mistake, so they contacted and surrendered to the military column at Chaungnakwa village.

U Ohn Gyaw Returns From Narcotics Meeting

BK0503144590 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] A Myanmar [Burmese] delegation led by U Ohn Gyaw, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Political Department, which attended the 17th special session on narcotics at the United Nations General Assembly in New York between 20 and 23 February, returned to Yangon [Rangoon] by air this evening. The Myanmar delegation was welcomed back at Yangon airport by Brigadier General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council; Brigadier General Myo Nyunt, commander of the Yangon Military Command; high-ranking military officials; and responsible officials of the People's Police Force and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. U San Thein, deputy director general of police; Colonel Tin Hla, Lieutenant Colonel Ye Htut, and Major Kyaw Thein of the Ministry of Defense; and Deputy Director U Kyaw Thu and Assistant Director U Thet Bo of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs returned with the delegation.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

SRV Boat People 'Voluntarily' Return Home

BK1403125990 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Another 10 Vietnamese boat people in Malaysia voluntarily flew home today under the United Nations High Commissioner For Refugees (UNHCR) repatriation program. This brings to 40 the total number of Vietnamese boat people who have returned home since the program was launched last year.

At the moment, there are another 20,000 Vietnamese boat people in this country.

'Cordial Relations' With Singapore Stressed

BK0803091190 Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in Malay 17 Feb 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Ghafar's Opinion of Singapore"]

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Ghafar Baba has removed the suspicion surrounding Malaysian-Singapore solidarity by expressing his firm belief that the neighboring country is sincere in helping to make Visit Malaysia Year a success. Mr. Ghafar said that Malaysia is convinced of Singapore's sincerity regarding Visit Malaysia Year which began this year.

The deputy prime minister's opinion reflects the Malaysian Government's intention to remove any suspicion that the neighboring country is either directly or indirectly trying to sabotage Malaysia's efforts to promote tourism in the country.

On security, Mr. Ghafar explained that there is no reason for Malaysia to oppose Singapore's military exercises on one of Indonesia's islands. He said that the issue should not become a source of conflict between Malaysia and Singapore. Obviously, the opinion voiced by the deputy prime minister shows the mature mentality of our leaders.

It should be noted that high-level leaders of Malaysia and Singapore such as Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir, Mr Ghafar Baba, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, and his deputy Goh Chok Tong always cherish the mutual understanding that exists between Malaysia and Singapore. They also aim to forge closer cooperation for the benefit of both countries.

To cite examples, the water agreement signed recently between the prime ministers of the two countries and the agreement signed between the Singapore and Johor state governments to bridge the gap between Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore Island are manifestations of the above objective.

Singapore and Malaysia are two dynamic powers in ASEAN and neither country will do anything to upset the solidarity that has been forged between them. As Mr. Ghafar said, any problems which arise can be solved through intergovernmental discussions.

It is also important to explain that the general conception that Malaysia and Singapore are suspicious of each other is based only on news reports published in newspapers. A Singapore Tourism Board advertisement promoting Singapore as the best tourist destination in this region has annoyed certain groups in Malaysia. Basically, tourists visiting Singapore will include Malaysia in their itinerary when visiting this region. In view of this, we must firmly adhere to Mr. Ghafar's statement that it is not good to create enmity with neighbors because this will bring negative effects to trade and economy. On the other hand, Singapore's prime minister recently reiterated that he wants neighboring countries to become prosperous because rich neighbors can become good friends. This is the reality that should be observed by the two countries.

Although the older generation leaders of Singapore and Malaysia will be retiring soon, the foundation which they have laid should serve as the starting point in the solidarity of these two neighboring countries. The concept of cooperation and mutual benefit should be the model for future leaders and the people of the two countries to follow in fostering continuous cordial relations.

Constitutional Amendment on Reelection Passed

BK1503065790 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Parliament last night passed the Constitution amendment bill which seeks to, among other things, disqualify an elected representative who resigns from seeking reelection for five years from the date of resignation; 125 MPs [members of Parliament] voted for and 26 against during block voting for the bill.

Earlier when tabling amendments to the Constitution for a second reading, the prime minister, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, said the absence of such a provision may make it possible for them to seek reelection for the same seat merely to test or prove their popularity. He said in such cases it will be a waste of time, energy, and money.

Cambodia

Phnom Penh Supports Thai Neutral Refugee Camp

BK1503090590 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Station commentary: "One Should Not Trample on the Fate of Cambodian Refugees"]

[Text] Recently international opinion became seriously interested in the fate of more than 300,000 Cambodian refugees living in various camps inside Thai territory along the Cambodian-Thai border. This happened after Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan stated in Bangkok that the refugees in the border camps had been turned into partisans under the control of different leaders, thus creating many problems, especially concerning security. Thailand was not happy with this state of affairs and, consequently, decided to close all the refugee camps.

Everyone knows that the brothers living in these camps have become refugees for many reasons. Some of them took refuge during the three years, eight months and 20 days of the treacherous Pol Pot rule. Others were forced at gunpoint to flee by the Pol Pot traitors when they fled the punishment of our people on 7 January 1979. Still others were misled by deceptive enemy propaganda during the first few years after liberation when we were experiencing difficulties. The enemies took advantage of the turmoil to cause material damage to the nation and, using humanitarian aid as bait, persuaded some of our people to go to the border.

Over the past 11 years, the refugee camps have been transformed into recruitment centers to provide manpower for the reactionary Khmer groups; the camps have been support bases from which food supplies and ammunition were sent to these groups to enable them to undermine the peaceful life of the Cambodian people. During these past 11 years, under the label of humanitarian aid to Cambodian refugees, the international reactionaries have helped the forces of Pol Pot and other reactionary Khmer groups in fighting against the rebirth of the Cambodian people. During the rainy seasons, the camps were declared closed and refugees forced to return home so the armed forces of the people's enemies could mingle with them and conduct sabotage inside Cambodia. During the dry seasons, swept by our Armed Forces, these bandits declared the camps reopened to enable the wounded and survivors of the crack-down to escape punishment by the State of Cambodia.

Besides using the refugees as a shield against bullets, the enemies of the State of Cambodia have seriously violated human rights, especially the rights of refugees living under the control of the genocidal Pol Pot gang. In addition to using them for army service to die in their places, the Polpotists have also used the refugees—young and old, men and women alike—as porters to carry munitions from the sanctuaries into the country, making them walk through minefields, battles, valleys, and malaria-infested areas, causing many to die or become sick. This is no secret. Even humanitarian organizations working in refugee camps have complained that they were not allowed to inspect some camps or check out reports that humanitarian aid was being used to feed the armed forces.

During the past 11 years, the party and government of the State of Cambodia have repeatedly voiced their concerns over the fate of Cambodian refugees. We have proposed that all refugee camps be completely demilitarized and located far from the battle-ravaged border regions to ensure safety for the lives of refugees. The State of Cambodia has proposed talks with the Kingdom of Thailand through specialized neutral organizations, such as the Red Cross of the two countries, and discuss the repatriation of refugees—our blood brothers. Our principled stance has always been that refugee repatriation should be voluntary and orderly.

So far, although this idea has not yet fully materialized, the State of Cambodia has welcomed back dozens of Cambodian refugees through the good offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross and has created conditions for them to be reunited with their families and to have rights and freedoms ordinarily enjoyed by all other citizens. From now on, the State of Cambodia will continue to maintain its humane policy toward the refugees. Pending a political solution or agreement among the factions concerned, the State of Cambodia is satisfied with the Thai decision to bring all refugee camps into a neutral UN-sponsored camp.

Sar Kheng Visits Kompong Cham Province 8-10 Mar

BK1303060990 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Between 8 and 10 March, Comrade Sar Kheng—member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, member of the party Central Committee Secretariat, and chief of the party Central Committee's Cabinet—paid a working visit to Kompong Cham Province to inspect the implementation of the national defense and reconstruction tasks and give advice and guidelines on tasks to be carried out in the coming rainy season.

During the visit, Comrade Sar Kheng held working sessions with the party committee, provincial people's committee, and leading cadres in the province. He also visited cadres, personnel, combatants, militiamen, monks, and people in various localities in Chamka Leu District. Speaking on these occasions, Comrade Sar Kheng commended efforts by the party committee, provincial and district people's committees, cadres, personnel, and people throughout Kompong Cham Province and particularly the heroic models set by our armed forces and militia units in the cause of national defense and reconstruction. Comrade Sar Kheng also recalled the barbarous and cruel acts committed by the genocidal Pol Pot clique, which—with the support and cooperation of the Son Sann and Sihanouk groups—is carrying on its perfidious maneuvers in an attempt to return to massacre our people again.

Comrade Sar Kheng added that in the past more than 11 years, the party and state of the State of Cambodia have made every effort to protect the people's lives and enable them to enjoy rights and freedoms for the progress of the Cambodian national society. He also stressed the firm strength and mastery of our people under the leadership of the Cambodian party and state, and the victories scored by our armed forces on the battlefields along the Cambodian-Thai border, particularly in Battambang and Banteay Meanchey Provinces. The comrade also pointed out the unsuccessful result of the recent informal meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia, saying that it was unsuccessful because of the obstinacy of the Cambodian opposition groups, particularly the genocidal Pol Pot clique, which has tried to undermine all negotiations aimed at solving the Cambodian problem through political means.

At the same time, Comrade Sar Kheng called on the party committee, provincial and district people's committees, cadres, and people to strengthen their solidarity and unity even more firmly and strive to implement all tasks according to the party-state policies in order to serve national interests and enhance the people's confidence in our new regime. He also called on all our compatriots to unite as one under the leadership of the party and state, assist each other, and actively contribute to the tasks of defending our motherland and building our Cambodian society.

Phnom Penh Reports on Military Operations

Sep-Feb Battambang 'Victories'

BK1203055890 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] By constantly strengthening and expanding their position of strength and victory over the enemies, the armed forces in Battambang Province scored successive victories in operations launched both inside and outside their areas. In fact, in search-and-destroy operations launched in cooperation with the local police and militia forces from the end of September 1989—when all Vietnamese army volunteers were withdrawn from Cambodia—to the end of February 1990, the armed forces of Battambang Province killed 276 enemy soldiers, including two battalion commanders of the Pol Pot clique, wounded 194, and captured seven others. They also seized 84 assorted weapons and a quantity of war material. At present, the armed forces of Battambang Province have firmly defended their strongholds and, in cooperation with the police and militia forces, are carrying on their sweep operations against the enemies in order to ensure security for the people.

Feb Stoung Activities

BK1003085590 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] In February, having grasped the schemes and weak points of the enemy troops, the party and people's committees in Stoung District of Kompong Thom Province used the combined forces, measures, and means to launch 11 sweep operations against the enemy forces, putting 56 out of action—53 killed and three wounded—and seizing a large quantity of war material and documents. The district's police forces searched and captured 22 enemy agents implanted in various communes. They also seized a quantity of classified documents and weapons. Following these operations, the enemy soldiers have become demoralized and have lost the will to fight. Five of them, four Sihanoukist soldiers and one Pol Pot soldier, laid down their arms, deserted the enemy troops, and fled to join our authorities and people.

26 Feb-3 Mar Activities

BK1003121590 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1100 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK March 10—According to military sources, in the week ended on March 3, government forces killed 374 enemy troops, captured 38, and forced 14 others to surrender and seized 635 assorted guns and 92 [metric] tons of ammunition in clashes that took place at the north-western border.

On February 26, government troops took control of Pang Roloem, a position in Ratanamondol District, Battambang Province, after killing 62 enemy troops and seizing 18 mortars, 80 anti-tank B-40 rocket launchers, 12 tons of ammunition, and other war materials.

On February 25, the government troops also wiped out 18 enemy troops and captured one other and seized eight firearms in fightings at Tunles and Preav in Banteay Meanchey Province.

Successes in Pailin

BK1503051890 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0409 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK March 15—In the 10 days ended on March 9, elements of the government's Division 4 killed 73 Polpotists and forced five others to surrender in Pailin, Battambang province, 300 km northwest of Phnom Penh.

They seized 37 guns of various calibers, 16 tons of ammunition, and a number of other war means.

Pailin, a northwestern border zone of Cambodia abandoned during the time of Pol Pot, was occupied by the government force in early 1979 when the country was liberated. However, the Khmer Rouge have harassed the area since the total withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteer troops from Cambodia last September.

Arms Caches Uncovered

BK1203124790 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1117 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Phnom Penh, 12 Mar (SPK)—Last week, the armed forces in Pursat Province, 150 km northwest of Phnom Penh, uncovered three enemy arms caches with a total of 290 rifles.

On 5 and 6 March, eight Son Sann soldiers surrendered to people's authorities in Svay Chek, Banteay Meanchey Province, bringing with them six rifles.

It is to be recalled that on 28 February, Banteay Meanchey provincial armed forces recaptured Beng commune, putting out of action 35 enemy soldiers and seizing 13 weapons.

4-11 Mar Battle Successes

BK1403073090 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 14 Mar 90

[All numbers as heard]

[Text] In the week from 4 to 11 March, our Armed Forces from all units conducted search-and-destroy operations and ambushed the enemy, inflicting continuous serious setbacks on them. In fact, during this period our Armed Forces put out of action 138 enemy soldiers, including 24 killed, eight wounded, and one captured. We seized 361 assorted firearms and a significant quantity of war material. Along with this, we received 107 surrendered enemy soldiers who brought along 72 assorted guns to our people's committees.

9-10 Mar Combat Successes

BK1303053590 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] According to news sources in Banteay Meanchey Province, on 9 March—despite their successive defeats—the Cambodian reactionaries made an adventurous attempt by sending their infantry forces supported by weapons to attack our position at Banteay Siem. After fighting for five minutes, they were defeated and forced by our Armed Forces to retreat in shame. As a result of repeated defeats, on 10 March five soldiers of the sereika [Sonsannian] commando unit turned themselves in to our authorities in Banteay Siem, bringing along five weapons; 13 others with 13 weapons reported themselves to our authorities in Svay Chek.

12 Mar Battle Successes

BK1403080190 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] According to reports from Banteay Meanchey Province, our People's Armed Forces from all units stationed in Banteay Meanchey Province have recently conducted operations to defeat the enemy inside their defense perimeter. As a matter of fact, our forces jointly launched on 12 March vigorous attacks from many directions against remnants of the three enemy groups. We inflicted heavy defeats on them and forced them to flee. On the same day, our Armed Forces seized full control of the following villages: Baray, Kbal Khting, Pongro, Ta Khe, Kouk Prasat, Kouk Phchek, and Kouk Prik, and we continued to advance up to Svay Sar.

On 11 March, 18 enemy soldiers with 18 firearms broke from their ranks and surrendered to our state authorities and people. Also, according to a report from Battambang Province, 10 Polpotist soldiers who could no longer resist the energetic, sweeping attacks mounted by the three forces of the provincial army, surrendered to our state authorities and people with five guns, including a B-62 rocket launcher and a B-40.5 rocket launcher. Furthermore, in search-and-destroy operations against the enemy, our Armed Forces uncovered three metric tons of ammunition at a remote area in Ratanamondol District. Also, the 15th regiment of Division 4 discovered and seized many firearms and a great deal of war material, including eight barrage weapons—a 100-mm mortar, two 106.7-mm mortars, a 82-mm mortar, two B-40 rocket launchers, and two B-41 rocket launchers. In Bavel District, our Armed Forces uncovered armaments and ammunition abandoned by routed enemy troops, including an AK rifle, rockets for B-40 and B-41 rocket launchers, shells for 60-mm mortar, Claymore mines, and a significant quantity of TNT plastic explosive.

At present, the heroic, courageous cadres and combatants of our front line armed forces are advancing offensively to crush the enemy in order to effectively maintain security and peace for the people and to defend the beloved motherland.

13 Mar Battle Successes

BK1403141990 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1100 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] According to reports from Banteay Meanchey Province, with the setbacks of the three Cambodian groups on every battlefield and at a time when they are retreating in panic, the three types of our Armed Forces have vigorously moved forward in their offensive.

On 13 March, yesterday, our forces smashed a determined group of enemy soldiers near (Phnum Prey), forcing them to flee the battlefield in a poor condition. Our forces were in full control and are firmly positioned there. As a result, our people's armed forces captured three enemy soldiers and forced 37 others to surrender. Furthermore, we seized 37 assorted weapons and a quantity of war material. Our courageous and valiant armed forces are currently continuing their campaign to search and defeat the enemy with the advantage of strong forces to expand and score new and greater victories for the motherland and the people.

VOK Reports Sihanouk Army Frees 3 Communes

BK1403062690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] According to a report from the General Staff of the Sihanoukist National Army [ANS], at 0630 on Sunday [11 March], two battalions of ANS combatants from the 3d and 6th Brigades launched an attack on a number of Vietnamese-Heng Samrin strongholds in Varin District of Siem Reap Province during which they totally liberated and took control of three communes and seven villages. The three communes that were liberated by the ANS are Russei Thom, Prasat, and Anlung Sar. According to the report, the ANS combatants won this victory after fighting until 1400, when the enemies deserted the battlefield. The ANS also seized a large quantity of weapons and ammunition in this attack.

VONADK Reports Kompong Thom Captured

BK1503005090 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 14 Mar 90

["Special Report"]

[Text] Our National Resistance Forces, with the cooperation of the Sihanoukist National Army [ANS], attacked and destroyed a position held by the 29th Vietnamese puppet regiment and an enemy battalion position in Krayea Commune, Stoung District, at the Kompong Thom battlefield.

On the morning of 11 March, our National Resistance Forces with ANS combatants attacked and completely destroyed those positions. We killed 45 Vietnamese soldiers, including 35 abandoned on the battlefield, among them 15 regiment and battalion commanders and province and district experts; wounded 52; and captured

32 others. We seized 176 assorted firearms, including 106 AK's, 15 B-40 rocket launchers, 11 B-41 rocket launchers, four Goryunov machineguns, eight Santos light machineguns, 18 RPD machineguns, five 60-mm mortars, two 80-mm mortars, two DK-82 guns, one 12.7-mm machinegun, and four pistols. We also seized 145 rounds for DK-82 guns, 113 shells for 80-mm mortars, 30 shells for 60-mm mortars, 32 cases of rounds for 12.7-mm machineguns, 30 cases of rounds for Goryunov machineguns, 76 rockets for B-40 and B-41 rocket launchers, 4,300 rounds for AK rifles, mines, two ICOM radio-communication sets, two sets of field radio Super Star, 14 field telephones, one typewriter, and a quantity of war material. Among the 32 enemy soldiers captured, there were many Vietnamese soldiers wearing the puppet army uniforms.

More SRV Troops, Soviet Arms Reported Sent

BK1403025290 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] The Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors have sent 270 more troops and large and small types of arms and ammunition from Vietnam to Cambodia.

1. On 28 February, the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors shipped 70 fresh troops wearing puppet soldiers' uniforms from Vietnam to Kompong Som port. These troops were forwarded by motorboat to Andong Toek Commune, Botumsakor District, Koh Kong Province, where they were deployed in various areas.

2. On 2 March, the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors shipped 200 fresh troops in puppet soldiers' uniforms from Vietnam to Kompong Som port. These troops were later sent by motorboat to Andong Toek Commune, Botumsakor District, Koh Kong Province.

3. On 7 March, three Soviet ships—7,000-ton capacity—transported large and small types of arms and ammunition to Kompong Som port.

Troops From Moung District

BK1203021490 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] On 2 and 3 March, the Vietnamese enemies and their puppets sent a regiment of forces from Moung District [Battambang Province] to attempt to retake the positions at Prek Chik and Phnum Basak Hill from our forces. Upon arrival at Prek Chik village, these Vietnamese troops were ambushed and routed by our national resistance forces. We killed 12 enemy soldiers, wounded seven others, and destroyed a quantity of war material.

Troops to Takeo

BK1503022790 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] On 3 March the Hanoi authorities sent 1,800 fresh troops wearing puppet army uniforms from Vietnam by Highway 2, via Phnum Den, Kirivong District, to Takeo Province.

Indonesia

Papers View Failure of Cambodian Informal Meeting

BK0903124190

[Editorial Report] Two Indonesian-language dailies—KOMPAS on 3 March and SUARA PEMBARUAN on 2 March, commented editorially on the failure of the Informal Meeting on Cambodia [IMC], held in Jakarta from 26-28 February.

KOMPAS's 800-word editorial on page 4, entitled: "Who is To Blame for the Failure of the IMC in Jakarta?" begins with Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas' remarks after closing the extended informal meeting in the wee hours of 1 March that "the Almighty God knows how much we have done to minimize the differences of opinions among the Cambodian factions. Now it is their turn to show their goodwill and sincerity to end massacre and tragedy in their country."

Continuing, the paper traces events leading to the staging of the IMC, including the previous meetings in Jakarta and Paris as well as the inconclusive battles in Cambodia where no rival faction seems to have the upper hand. The paper also praises the efforts of various groups and individuals, especially the Australians who called for a UN role in the settlement of the Cambodian problem.

While optimistic over the mutual understanding reached by Prince Sihanouk and Hun Sen at a meeting in Bangkok shortly before the IMC, the paper is disappointed over Hun Sen's stand at the IMC. It says: "All optimism was shattered in Jakarta. Hun Sen reverted to his old stand on the Khmer Rouge whenever he is in the presence of the Vietnamese foreign minister by demanding for a document with the clause that a solution to the Cambodian problem must rule out the return of the genocidal Khmer Rouge regime."

The paper points out that whenever that issue is raised, the Khmer Rouge will hit back by raising the issue of the Vietnamese presence in Cambodia, disguised as Cambodian soldiers or civilians.

The paper concludes by saying that "Cambodia's destiny depends on Sihanouk, Hun Sen, Son Sann, and Khieu Samphan, but unfortunately these leaders often change their positions."

SUARA PEMBARUAN's 600-word editorial on page 6, entitled: "What Next, After the Failure of IMC?" says

the failure of the IMC is not surprising due to the divergence of views among the rival factions. However, it is something to be regretted because the conflict will need a longer time to be resolved and the Cambodian people will have to suffer longer.

The paper points out that "the idea to hold both the International Conference on Cambodia in Paris and the IMC in Jakarta neither originated from the Cambodian people nor from the Southeast Asian people. Any effort by any external group to help solve the Cambodian problem should therefore be welcomed."

Continuing, the paper says: "However, in reality, "outsider" efforts have failed to resolve the problem. The efforts have instead created the impression that these "outsiders" will gain more from the solution of the problem than the Cambodian leaders themselves."

The paper concludes by saying: "In this vein, it is probably better now for these "outsiders" to adopt a passive role until the most suitable time for the next meeting emerges. We believe that the initiative to hold such meeting should come from the Cambodian themselves without any pressure from non-Cambodians."

Minister Reveals Export Earnings, Inflation Rate

BK1303100890 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 8 Mar 90 p 1

[Excerpts] Jakarta (JP)—Indonesia's exports increased by 15.23 percent in value to U.S. $22,146.9 million last year from $19,218.5 million in 1988, Information Minister Harmoko said after a limited cabinet meeting on the economy here yesterday.

He said the substantial increase in export earnings was caused mainly by the 16.77 percent rise in non-oil exports to $13,472.1 million last year from $11,536.9 million the previous year.

Indonesia's exports of oil and natural gas rose by 12.9 percent to $8,674.8 million from $7,681.6 million.

Trade Minister Arifin Siregar told the two-hour meeting presided over by President Suharto the country's exports in December reached $2,143 million, up by 14.8 percent from $1,865.3 million the previous month and by 22.4 percent from $1,750 million in December 1988. The country's imports in December were registered at $1,571.9 million, up by 7.8 percent from $1,357.4 million last November and by 9.3 percent from $1,437.04 million in December 1988. Harmoko said Indonesia therefore enjoyed a trade surplus of $571.1 million last December (as compared to $407.9 million in the previous month and $313.26 million in December 1988).

He said that spurred by rising prices on the world market, Indonesia's earnings from oil and LNG (liquefied natural gas) exports increased by 59.5 percent to $849.4 million last December over the same month in 1988 (and by 21.4 percent from last November), while non-oil exports increased by 6.2 percent to $1,293.6 million (and by 10.9 percent over the precious month). [passage omitted]

Harmoko said consumer prices, which rose by 0.91 percent in January, further increased by 0.99 percent last month. Last month's inflation increase was caused by the 1.51 percent rise in food prices, 0.84 percent in housing prices, 0.21 percent in clothing prices, and 0.39 percent in the prices of other goods and services.

The money supply in the country, he said, increased by 1 percent to Rp. [rupiah] 17,363 billion as of last October from Rp. 17,160 billion as of the previous month.

Official Says National Rice Stock 'Sufficient'

BK1103085390 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 1 Mar 90 p 2

[Excerpt] Jakarta, KOMPAS—Bulog [Logistics Affairs Agency] currently maintains 1.8 million metric tons of rice stock and is likely to increase its rice stock because it has no plan to dump rice into the markets. "In fact, a rice stock of 1.5 million metric tons is already sufficient," Sukriya Atmaja, deputy chief of Bulog, said after attending a coordinated meeting of food production at his office on Tuesday [27 February].

He added that as a consequence of this situation, Bulog must maintain the quality of its rice stock to ensure its freshness.

The quality of rice does not pose a problem in many parts of the country because rice mills exist almost everywhere, especially in areas with abundant rice production like Java, South Sulawesi, West Nusatenggara, and Bali. [passage omitted]

Laos

Phoun Sipaseut Interviewed on Jakarta Meeting

BK1403112690 Vientiane KPL in English 0921 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Vientiane, March 14 (KPL)—Foreign Minister Phoun Sipaseut, who headed Laos' governmental delegation to the recent Jakarta Informal Meeting on Cambodia, recently granted an interview on the outcome of the meeting to the "PASASON" daily.

Elaborating the matter, the Lao foreign minister pointed to the desire of all the participating delegations to have a comprehensive solution to the Cambodian issue and their joint constructive efforts of seeking an appropriate and equitable way to make the meeting successful leading to an early convocation of another Paris conference. Despite these, he said, the opposition parties, particularly the Khmer Rouge, remained unprepared to solve the problem.

Speaking of the different attitudes held by the countries, he said that some had favoured the UN decisive role in

three aspects: the control over the pull-out of foreign troops from Cambodia, the holding of a free, equitable election in the country with civil administrative power pending the transitional period, designed to eliminate the political and military status-quo in Cambodia. Some wanted to place the Cambodian issue under the management of both the National Supreme Council and the UN, and still some preferred having the UN peace-keeping force in a huge number stationed in Cambodia.

The Lao foreign minister attributed the failure of the meeting to the ill intention, espcially of the Khmer Rouge, with the illusion of solving the problem militarily.

To stress the three Indochinese countries' stance, Phoun Sipaseut clarified that the settlement of the Cambodian issue should be step-by-step dealt with: maintaining the political status-quo in Cambodia, which implies the existence of two governments in the country; the establishment of a national supreme council; and the self-determination of its people regarding their naional issue through such an election as referred to earlier.

Laos and Vietnam strongly supported the principled stance of the delegation to that meeting on the State of Cambodia, which, apart from the above statements, acknowledges the UN appropriate role exercised on the basis of respect for the country's independence and sovereignty and according to an accord on its role to be decided at a conference.

The Lao foreign minister came to the conclusion that despite being unsuccessful, the meeting had comprehensive dicussions on different proposals incorporated in the draft document indicating the urgent need to have a global political solution for the Cambodian issue. There was a new development in the process as a foundation for the next Paris conference.

Thai Princess Arrives in Vientiane for Visit

BK1503062890 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Her Royal Highness Maha Chakkri Sirinthon of the Kingdom of Thailand, arrived in Vientiane this morning aboard a special Royal Thai Air Force plane for an eight-day official friendship visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] at the invitation of His Excellency Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the LPDR. At 0935 hours, the plane touched down at Wattay International Airport where a welcoming ceremony was held. The national flags of Laos and Thailand flew majestically on the masts among posters and red banderoles with white inscriptions saying: A wholehearted welcome to Her Royal Highness Maha Chakkri Sirinthon on the occasion of her official visit to the LPDR.

Joining His Excellency Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the LPDR, to welcome the princess at the airport were His Excellency Kou Souvannamethi, justice minister; His Excellency Thongloun Sisoulit, deputy foreign minister; His Excellency Khamphan Simmalavong, Lao ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand; Mrs. Davon Vongsak, vice-chairman of the Federation of Lao Women's Unions; Somchan Thavikham, head of the General Department attached to the Office of the Council of Ministers; Bounkeut Sangsomsak, head of [word indistinct] division of the Foreign Ministry; Colonel (Si Inthavong), deputy chief of the Foreign Relations and Economic Department of the National Defense Ministry; Colonel (Bounpheng Vongphachan), chief of the Office of the Interior Ministry; (Li Southavilai), [words indistinct] of the Foreign Ministry; Dr. (Sikhamkat Visalai), chief of the University and Vocational Education Department of the Education and Sports Ministry; Mrs. (Dala Kanla-gna), chief of editorial staff of Vannasin Magazine; (Vilaithong) Souphanouvong, secretary to the president; and (Bouangeon Saphouvong), chief of the Central Arts Division of the Information and Culture Ministry.

His Excellency Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the LPDR, received the princess at the ramp of the plane. The princess later received bouquets from youth representatives before inspecting the Lao People's Army guard of honor while the army brass brand played the Thai national anthem. Her royal highness then walked past rows of people who came to greet her at the airport. She received bouquets and chatted with them before being driven away in a limousine between the rows of more than 2,500 Vientiane residents [words indistinct] At 1055 hours, the princess called on His Excellency Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the republic, at the presidential office. This afternoon, at 1340 hours, the princess will lay a wreath at the monument of King Saisetthathilat, the founder of That Louang Temple, before performing a worship rite in the temple with nine Buddhist monks giving their blessings. The princess will present copies of Buddhist holy scripts [words indistinct].

Meets Phoumi Vongvichit

BK1503104090 Vientiane KPL in English 0926 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Vientiane, March 15 (KPL)—H.E. [His Excellency] Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the Lao PDR [Lao People's Democratic Republic] meets here today Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon of the Kingdom of Thailand, right after her arrival for a friendly visit to the republic.

The acting president, on behalf of the government and people, expressed his respect and warm welcome to her royal highness princess. He on this occasion, also extends thanks to the king, the queen, the royal family and the government of Thailand for the arrangement of such an historic visit to Laos.

He further informed the princess of economic development in the country saying that with its natural (?location) last year Laos produced 1.4 million tons of grain and has now more than 2 million buffaloes and 2 million head of cattle.

Speaking of the Lao-Thai relations, the acting president expressed hope that they would increasingly develop, considering the princess's current visit as the first high level one, which symbolises future development in the relations between the two countries.

His Excellency Phoumi Vongvichit also had a courtesy discussion with her royal highness princess on Laos' history and culture which she is interested in. The acting president wished her health and success in her current visit to Laos, thus making the Lao-Thai friendship further strengthened.

Visits Temples

BK1503143090 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] At 1340 today, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon laid a wreath at the monument of King Saisetthathilat, founder of the That Louang temple. She then entered the temple and paid homage at the That Louang pagoda where nine senior Buddhist monks chanted and blessed her. At the temple, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon presented yellow robes to the monks and presented Tripitaka Buddhist scriptures to the temple for the monks and novices to study the ethics and teachings of the Lord of Buddha. Afterwards, her royal highness the princess viewed the That Louang pagoda and antiques around the pagoda.

Later, at 1430, she proceeded to pay homage to the Pha Ong Teu Buddha image at the Ong Teu Temple where 11 senior monks chanted and blessed her. At this temple, she also received a blessing from Revered Khamphong Sanaleut, abbot of the temple. Her royal highness the princess also gave some yellow robes to monks and novices of the temple. Later, her royal highness the princess went to visit Phakeo Museum and Sisaket Museum. In visiting each of the historic places and antiques, her royal highness the princess was accompanied by His Excellency Dr. Thongloun Sisoulit, deputy minister of foreign affairs, and members of the reception committee of the Lao side. This evening, His Excellency Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the republic, will organize a banquet in honor of her royal highness the princess at the guest hall of the Council of Ministers in Vientiane.

Chinese Youth Delegation Arrives for Visit

BK0703153790 Vientiane KPL in English 0912 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] Vientiane, Mar 7 (KPL)—A delegation of the Chinese Communist Youth Union led by a member of its secretariat, Liu Qi Bao arrived here on March 6 for a one-week long visit to the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic].

The delegation was met at the airport by Phan Douangchitvongsa, member of the Secretariat of the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union.

Chinese Ambassador to Laos Liang Feng was also present at the airport to meet the delegation.

Passenger Aircraft Purchased From China

BK2602104390 Vientiane KPL in English 0936 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Vientiane, February 26 (KPL)—A handing over of a passenger aircraft was held at the Wattai airport here on February 24 between the Chinese Import-Export Company for Aviation Technology and the Lao Aviation.

The aircraft is of a Y-12 model with 17 seats, capable of flying 15,000 feet high at a 238 km/h speed, suitable to the country's geographical feature and the short runway of 200 r 300 m [as received]. It is also equipped with radar communication with ground services.

With a warrantee of 3,500 hours flight, its twin motors are made in Canada.

This Chinese made aircraft is the second to be used for air transportation in central and northern parts of Laos after the Soviet made ones.

According to a contract it has signed with the Chinese company the Lao Aviation has purchased two "Y-12" 's worth 3.9 million US dollars. This includes the cost of the current training of 8 Lao crew-members in China.

The Y-12 is expected to be put into service in late March this year.

Philippines

Manglapus on Upcoming U.S. Bases Negotiations

Aquino's Popularity Considered

HK1403114690 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE in English 14 Mar 90 p 6

[By Julius Fortuna and Chandler Ramas III]

[Text] President Aquino's popularity here and abroad will work again for the Philippine panel in the coming negotiations on the U.S. military bases, Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said yesterday.

"The assumption that President Aquino's popularity is not that high is belied by the surveys, although it has been down," Manglapus said in a press conference.

He recalled that during the negotiations in 1988 with then U.S.-Secretary of State George Shultz on bases

compensation, Mrs Aquino's popular standing worked to enabled the Philippines to gain concessions from the United States.

He said the fact that Mrs Aquino has seen periods of declining rating in public approval is normal for any head of state, citing the case of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of Britain, who at one point had an approval rating of only 15 percent.

Manglapus also observed that the so-called Ateneo surveys showing that more Filipinos preferred the U.S. bases to stay could not be a gauge of real public opinion.

Meanwhile, the number of UP [University of the Philippines] students joining an antibases march to Clark Air Base dwindled Tuesday to a few hundreds as they reached Apalit, Pampanga, yesterday afternoon. The students' ranks, however, are expected to swell to thousands today when UP students who have finished taking their final semestral examinations join the group.

The marchers, who left Monday for the four-day march, are set to enter San Fernando town today. The 92-kilometer march, organized by the UP Student Council, will end Thursday at Clark Air Base. The students have already covered one-third of the route to the bases.

The students reached Malolos, Bulacan, Tuesday morning. Residents gave them water and food. One student collapsed in Malolos, and was treated by a first aid crew. The other participants, numbering about 200, looked determined to finish the march.

The Alliance of Concerned Teachers-UP Diliman chapter, joined the protest march. The participants carried banners with antibases slogans.

Wide-Range Consultations Start

HK1503042790 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 15 Mar 90 pp 1, 14

[Excerpt] The Philippine panel for the exploratory talks on the future of United States military facilities in the country has started conducting wide-range consultations in preparation of the meeting.

The exploratory talks are scheduled to be held next month.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus said yesterday that the presidential bases committee headed by Executive Secretary Catalino Macaraig Jr., members of the academe, and other groups concerned with the fate of the bases will be among the parties to be consulted.

Manglapus said he looks forward to holding marathon sessions during the talks, adding that he hoped the talks will "not take too long."

The panel is expected to complete the talks before Sept. 16, 1990, the date president Aquino is scheduled to issue the notice of termination of the use of facilities. The date is exactly one year before the expiration of the RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. Military Bases Agreement (MBA).

The meeting, which Manglapus described as "informal," is crucial in deciding whether the government would negotiate with the U.S. another treaty that would extend the military facilities beyond Sept. 16, 1991.

There is no agenda yet although President Aquino had earlier said that the Philippine panel will raise the issues on the $96-million shortfall in pledged military and economic assistance under the MBA this year and the compliance with the constitutional provision banning the storage of nuclear weapons in the country.

[Passage omitted]

Further on Consultations

HK1403133990 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus today announced that the exploratory talks between the Philippines and the United States regarding the bases issue will proceed next month. According to Manglapus, topics for discussion will not only be the issue of bases, but also the existing relations between the two countries. However, Manglapus said that up to now, there is no formal agenda for discussion.

[Begin Manglapus recording in English] There are no issues still, since there will be no [words indistinct]. Of course, this will be purely mutual information and mutual exchange of views. There are no issues to be settled because there is no [words indistinct]. [end recording]

At the same time, Manglapus said that even the date for the meeting is not yet known:

[Begin Manglapus recording in English] The United States has not yet arrived... [end recording]

Ramos Interviewed on Cagayan, U.S. Bases

HK1403150090 Quezon City GMA 7 Radio-Television Arts Network in English 1430 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Interview with Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos by Ricardo Puno Jr. of TV public affairs program "Viewpoint"—live or recorded—italicized portions in Tagalog—no video available]

[Text] [Puno] Secretary Ramos, perhaps we can start with the Cagayan incident which is uppermost in the mind of a lot of people. First of all, has the location of ex-Governor Aguinaldo been pinpointed?

[Ramos] Well, the general location of suspended Governor Aguinaldo has been more or less identified, although it is in a fairly large area of three or four towns, principally Gattaran, which is at the foot of the Sierra Madre, Penablanca, which is also in the Sierra Madre,

and then three or four of the northern coastal towns of Cagayan. But even then, these are fairly undeveloped places and they are in a particular spot of the province which has many jungle sanctuaries.

[Puno] How many men does he have?

[Ramos] Well, right now, we estimate that he has remaining with him from 50 to 100 hardcore followers out of the original 600.

[Puno] The part of this jungle, according to some people, might give a little bit of disadvantage to the military, to think that he still has some native Aetas [tribesmen] with him.

[Ramos] Well, he has, but the Aetas are not that much of a fighting force. In fact, in the first fusillade during the Hotel Delfino incident, most of the Aetas surrendered without firing a shot. These are the so-called bantay bayans or armed civilian volunteers. The so-called CAFGU [Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit] of which a lot has been said also did not put up a fight. He has with him a maximum of about 200 or maybe a little less. We are talking here, however, two CAFGU companies out of the entire 800 CAFGU companies all over the country and 10 CAFGU companies in Cagayan. So, there is a little exaggeration in trying to describe this combat force. Right now, I think he will try to survive.

[Puno] Let us go to this thing about General Florendo and the investigation going on about who exactly was responsible for the bullet that killed him. There is some unfortunate sidelight to this, notably the promotion or temporary assignment of Colonel Templo has been withdrawn.

[Ramos] Well, I think we should... I will try to straighten this out. Thank you for giving us this opportunity. First of all, we must look at the situation in Hotel Delfino. The rebels under Aguinaldo, of whom there were maybe 200 to 300 at the time, badly outnumbered the handful of defenders, starting from the second floor to the top floor, the fifth floor of the hotel. And these defenders really had maybe 12 to 15 firearms among them, some of them handguns and one old shotgun. They also had a very limited amount of ammunition. And so their posture was defensive in nature. Aguinaldo was broadcasting through his bullhorn from the first floor lobby—mainly threats against Secretary Santos, Colonel Tanega, and the others—for them to come down and surrender; otherwise, they will be... *as Governor Aguinaldo himself put it, you will be pulverized.* So they tried, during the time that they had, to barricade the entry into the second floor with anything that they could put their hands on, including some bags of cement, heavy furniture, and everything else. And so I think that if the sequence of events is properly recorded by the investigators, they will find out that the defenders from the second floor up were only reacting to attacks or advances, perhaps preceded by fire, from the ground floor.

[Puno] So, nothing about this first shot being fired from the second floor?

[Ramos] Well, that still has to be established, but I think they should appreciate the defensive posture of the group of Secretary Santos, Colonel Tanega, and Colonel Templo and the very aggressive stance of the rebels who wanted to take over the whole hotel and capture about 50 or 55 armed forces personnel billeted at the hotel at the time.

[Puno] What sometimes I am not so clear on is, I mean, in the circumstances that were occuring there... it was an agressive situation on one side as against another one that is defending. Is it not possible that really accidental fire could have been discharged around that time?

[Ramos] Well, that of course is possible. Anything is possible under a situation like that, which is very tense. It could have resulted in, what you say, could be an accidental fire...

[Puno] So, if General Florendo was in fact killed by fire coming from the second floor, what does that prove? I mean, I'm not too clear what that proves.

[Ramos] Well, again, as General Montano has stated in a previous interview that we cannot pinpoint the responsibility on a particular person. But that, in my view, the responsibility should be placed on the person or the group of persons who started the chain of events that led to the Hotel Delfino situation. I think in the long run it should be viewed in that manner.

Now, as regard the promotion or the designation of Colonel Templo. Again, there are some misunderstandings here because right now Colonel Templo is the deputy chief of staff J-7 for civil military operations. That is a general position and we have that position. Now, he is the supervisor of his operating unit, one of which is the Civil Relations Service [CRS] which used to be commanded by the late Brigadier General Oscar Florendo. It is the same relationship as the deputy chief of staff for intelligence J-2 now headed by Brigadier General Roman Gavino Jr. and his operating arm which supervises the intelligence service of the Armed Forces now commanded by, in an acting capacity, Colonel Charlie Tanega. And so, I think there was a premature announcement by somebody of Templo assuming in a dual capacity the position previously occupied by the late Oca [Florendo]. Now, I don't think there is any downgrading of Colonel Templo here, but maybe the deputy of Oca—the deputy of CRS at the time Oca died, who is Colonel Johnny Andaya—is perhaps being given a chance to act as commanding officer. I don't know whether that will take place but I think there is a little...

[Puno] So, what was this newspaper report about a withdrawal of an appointment. That was the report that started the confusion.

[Ramos] Well, I really don't know, but I would think that in a situation like this it could not be necessary for

Templo to occupy both if there is a competent deputy that can be the acting commander of that subordinate unit.

[Puno] Now, one of the aspects of this Cagayan incident is, particularly as critics of the military have said: *The military's record seems to be perfect.* Everytime there is a hostage situation, a general dies. Somebody in the high position gets caught in the crossfire. Is this in your view an indication of the capability of the military to handle hostage situation?

[Ramos] No, you know, we have developed a capability, and there are some...

[Puno] Zamboanga, for instance.

[Ramos] ...except they were not hostages. There had been so many others, Lanao del Sur, in which the rescue and recovery of hostages have been accomplished with nobody dying. I think they should give credit to the fact that our Armed Forces now, in a full recognition in which the proper respect for human rights and the necessity for saving lives or preserving lives, does not go into a situation with all guns blazing. In fact, in the case of Oca, he was sent there under instruction of General de Villa precisely to effect a peaceful resolution through the persuasive approach so that suspended Governor Aguinaldo would submit himself to the orders of a court and not resist the service of the warrant upon him. And that is usually the first step. And we have a policy, an SOP [standard operating procedure] that has been in effect since just after the Cawa Cawa incident of January 1989 which described this step by step procedure that must be taken, even if this means some danger or hazards to the military personnel that are assigned to do this. But that is now our policy.

[Puno] What about the Constitution... Why do you have to... Why did the warrant have to be served before the hearing on the case of Senator Enrile where the matter of bail for a charge of rebellion with murder has been raised? Because I think he was saying that he was going to... If that ruling was going to be in favor of Senator Enrile, he would surrender.

[Ramos] This is Aguinaldo's perception. He is mistaken. In the first place, the warrant issued for Senator Enrile was by branch 87, one judge. The one for Governor Aguinaldo was by another judge, branch 88, Judge Tirso Velasco, and the conditions, the circumstances that led to the issuance of both warrants are completely different. The information is different. And secondly, it was made very clear by the secretary of justice beforehand, right after the order for temporary liberty by the Supreme Court for Senator Enrile... that situation did not apply to the Aguinaldo case. So I think it was just wishful thinking or maybe just plain propaganda or delaying for time on the part of Aguinaldo that he was saying this.

[Puno] So, that timing of the actual service of the warrant had nothing to do with any other consideration regarding his...

[Ramos] None, and as you can deduce from the issuances of Aguinaldo, this is his usual game. He is just biding for time. What has he done? He has sent so many messages through his lawyer addressed to Malacanang, to various senators, to me, to classmates, to other possible intervenors for him. And he is saying so many things, like: I will surrender peacefully if the charge is changed to simple rebellion. He has even sent a message to me through some intermediaries saying that: If you will allow me, Mr. Secretary, to just operate against the NPA [New People's Army] in the Sinandungan Valley, I will forget my political and other military activities, but just give me a free hand. Well, you know, these are demands that he is in no position to be making. Besides, they are impossible demands.

[Puno] So, what is the situation now? There is no pending offer of surrender and the operation continues?

[Ramos] Yes, the operation continues, although we are minus one unit now. I must emphasize that never was there any time when 10,000 troops are over there. I estimate... I have been there off and on, about 2,700 people, and that is being reduced now because the 65th Battalion, which came from Ilocos Sur, released in place the 17th Battalion which has been in Cagayan for a long time. Release in place means they switch places and the 17th now moves to where the 65th came from, in Ilocos Sur.

[Puno] Let us take a break now. [commercial break]

[Puno] Okay, Secretary Ramos, there are a few more questions on the Cagayan incident before we move to other things. Look at this. Freddie Mojica asks: Rumor has it that Governor Aguinaldo has been seen Cubao. Is this true? Has he left Cagayan already?

[Ramos] Maybe some of his look-alike or...

[Puno] Well, as a wrap-up of the Cagayan incident, how would you do it? How many people were captured? What is the situation there right now?

[Ramos] Well, right now, some 292 of his followers have either been captured or have surrendered voluntarily, and among them, some 246 high-powered firearms, including five very large pieces—two 19 [word indistinct] recoilless rifles, three or four [word indistinct] plus 12 vehicles. And the three mayors that initially absconded with him or provided support from the very first day have surrendered to the PC [Philippine Constabulary] through the intercession of Congressman Puzon of Cagayan. They are being attended to through the administrative procedures of the Department of Local Governments which may want to file criminal charges against them, depending on the investigations.

[Puno] Let us move to the coup last December and the rumors of still yet another pending coup. First of all, do you think there is still another attempt or another attempted coup d'etat?

[Ramos] Well, we do not discount this possibility, but if you talk about probability, again, we have to examine very well the timing, the capability, the available support, and also the people's support that we can count on. Now, I would think that at this particular time, their capabilities are much, much less than what they had in late November and December of 1989. The people's support aspect is very important now in the sense that a great many more people have become aware of this threat and they have withdrawn or reversed their support for Gringo and his group, which in the past they gave really. Secondly, I think we have been through the worst congruence of events in terms of multiple crisis situation building up because that took place in about the third week of February, last month.

[Puno] Third week of February.

[Ramos] ...when we had many things going on at the same time. First, the graduation of the Philippine Military Academy class of 1990, February 19. And then about that time was the election of the regional governor and the assembly in Mindanao to which we had to commit a lot of troops. And then the visit here of very important foreign visitors—top Japanese businessmen, the One Asia Assembly, and also the preparation for the EDSA [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue] Revolution...

[Puno] Those would have been disruptive...

[Ramos] These would have really tied us up and as it did tie up a lot of the forces of the Armed Forces as well as the troops. We are over that hump and we are in a better position to repel and confront any future coup attempts.

[Puno] Let me give you three more guide posts that the rumor mills in Manila have: One is the start of the trial of the First Lady; the seond is the retirement of some more officers by the end of March and April 1st; and thirdly, the PNP [Philippine National Police] Bill which apparently gives a non-military man, apparently according to some people, will be appointed as head of the PNP. That might fuel some fire again.

[Ramos] Well, let us look at that one by one. In the case of former First Lady, Mrs. Marcos, ah, I just came from Region 1, especially in Ilocos Norte, in Batac and Laoag. And I freely roamed around there. Some people warned me against it because they said: Hey, you are an enemy in those places. I said: No, my mother comes from there and I feel at home in those places. So, I did not feel any indication or any build-up or any developing threats that could arise out of the trial of Mrs. Marcos in the U.S. In fact, I asked direct questions about that. I did not gather any indications about this. In fact, one of the recommendations that arose out of my visit to Ilocos Norte last week was to recommend the reopening of the Laoag International Airport, under certain conditions. First, that the Commission on Immigration and Deportation would augment their personnel for obvious reasons, and for the same obvious reasons, the Bureau of Customs to increase their technical equipment as well as personnel to service that international airport. And for the Pafsecom, the Philippine Air Force Security Command, to add a few more people to their unit there. And as we all well know now, the president has decided to have that airport opened, first for domestic operations, and at about the 15th of April, for international commercial air operations. So, I don't think we are going to have any trouble from that, although there may be some disturbances.

Secondly, in regard to the retirements. Well, in the Armed Forces, we have always had orderly retirements even if some were indeed massive. For example, April 1st of 1998 when the entire class of '57, except for one, General de Villa, retired. In this particular case, this is a much smaller class, the class of 1958. Some started to retire already because of age in January and February, and the people that have taken the places of the retiring commanders and senior staff officers, in my view, are equally capable. And so we expect an orderly transition.

[Puno] No problems about promotions, reservists complaining that they should be getting promotions?

[Ramos] I don't see why they should complain in so far as the replacements of senior officers are concerned at this particular time because the commanding general of the Philippine Air Force, Brigadier General Gerry Protacio, is not a PMA graduate. He is a product of the Philippine Flying School. Well, he is the second one during the Aquino administration from the topline school that has occupied that position. And that is not really the basis for a coup in the Armed Forces. Those of us who were in the Armed Forces before and those who are now in active service, I think, are responsible enough to see to it that the retirement of senior officers will not become a basis for coup attempts.

Now the third one, which is the PNP bill, again I think the most controversial provisions, meaning the exclusion of PC generals or even colonels, has been resolved. They will be allowed to come into the force. As to who will command the PNP when that is established, I don't think will be a reason for a coup attempt.

[Puno] We will have to take a break now. When we come back, I'd like to ask what you consider to be the biggest threat now. Is it the left, is it the separatists, or the right? [commercial break]

[Puno] Secretary Ramos, Engineer Francisco Elisea of Pamangat, Bulacan asks: What is your view of the recent statement of the RAM [Reform the Armed Forces Movement] that the Aquino government cannot last until 1992? Apparently, there was a statement that they have delivered...

[Ramos] Yes, I saw that. Again, this is consistent with their desire to shortcut everything. When they mention this, of course, they are hoping, and I am sure they are counting upon other groups, political groups, to support them in this, whether the means would be legal or illegal.

But you know, I am very confident the Aquino government will last through its six-year term and even beyond that, will be able to put in place reforms, institutions, and programs that will go beyond the six-year term for the purpose of advancing and enhancing our political stability and economic growth.

I think people don't realize that when this government came in in February 1986, that it did not really start from zero. It started from minus, from a big black hole in terms of foreign debt, the insurgency, poverty specially, unemployment, etc, and that it has slowly climbed out of that big black hole and even gained a higher ground from which to launch the future programs for our people and for our Republic.

[Puno] Okay, let me ask you about the insurgency, because with all these preoccupations about the attempted coup, I mean, I think we still have an insurgency going on, don't you? The question is: How is that coming along? You have been quoted as saying that the number of armed elements in the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines]-NPA has actually been reduced, and that the initiative, more or less, has transferred to the military. Is this the...

[Ramos] Yes. In various so-called traditional parameters, the developments have been very favorable for the government, for the Armed Forces. For instance, in regard to the number of the CPP-NPA regulars—that reached a high point in '86 and '87, arising out of the worst years in '83, '84, and '85 because there was a momentum that brought the recruitment program by them forward. That has declined dramatically since '88 up to the end of '89, from about 25,200 at its peak to about a little over 18,000 now.

[Puno] 18,000?

[Ramos] Yes. Now in terms of the firearms also, there has been a very dramatic reversal of the trend in two points: First, the total number has been reduced from about 18,000 because above two-thirds of the 25,000 before were armed. So about 13,000 now has been down not only through combat but also through our policy of attraction under our National Reconciliation and Development Program.

Now, the second point is that, it is now the Armed Forces and the police that have an agaw-armas [arms snatching] program against them. We used to lose 1,400 or more firearms per year, and this was in 1986. Then we gained from them. But in '88 and '89, we have been gaining more firearms than we have lost to the extent of more than 600 per year. More than 600 in '88 and 1989.

[Puno] But can you say that you have, quote, broken the back or...

[Ramos] No. What we are saying is that their growth has been reversed and that we are more or less on schedule in regard to the timetable to achieve strategic control of the insurgency problem by 1991 because there are other things that come into place. We are using a total approach strategy, fully realizing that a military solution is not the solution, that it must be a combination of political action, economic growth, and social reforms, all of which to be protected by the military and the police.

[Puno] Which do you consider the biggest threat at this point? The rightists or the leftists, or the separatists in Mindanao?

[Ramos] The communist insurgency is still the most potent long-term threat in the sense that they have a political party, they have funding, they have a very aggressive armed component, they have international linkages. They have a very strong propaganda, agitation, and organization arm called the National Democratic Front, and they have the elements that could make for a complete revolutionary party and program. On the other hand, the ultra-right, represented by the military rebels and their civilian, political, and financial supporters, are the immediate short-term threat in the sense that any actions by them, even if these are just terroristic in nature such as assassinations or hostage-taking or just noise, affect our financial and political life very much.

[Puno] Are you concerned that the rightists, if they really feel all of these forces closing in on them, even if their leaders, many of their leaders have not yet been caught... are you a little concerned that they might turn to some extreme actions because, you know, Manila is sometimes ripe with rumors about assassination, things like that? Are you concerned about that?

[Ramos] Well, you know, we have captured many of their documents and we have monitored many of their tactical transmissions to the effect that they have various phases in their overall plan. They have options other than just coup attempts. And they are very flexible. They turn to one when they do not succeed in the other. So, we are always on alert for this. But I think that we should not also panic all the time whenever there is a proclamation by them or where there are disturbances because I think this is a nature of our transitional democracy. We are not yet fully in place. Our democratic institutions are still soggy in many, many aspects. In fact, as many people know, the so-called newly restored democracies, starting from Greece and Spain up in 1970 and '74, for five or 10 years after they were able to restore their democracy were still bestirred by such occurences as military uprisings.

[Puno] Excuse me for interrupting. We will take a break and we will be right back. [commercial break]

[Puno] Secretary Ramos, there are so many areas I would like to go into but I am going to have to establish some priorities here. Let me introduce this next subject. I have a question from Vicky Gomez, a businesswoman from Makati. No, I'm sorry, from another person, but that's another question I'm gonna surprise you with at the end. This is from Eric Rey from Constancia Street, Smapaloc, a worker. He asked: Are you for the retention of the U.S. bases?

[Ramos] Well, my personal viewpoint has been consistently that because of the conditions in the country—poverty, economic dislocation in many places, and the insurgency—that we must adopt a gradual phase-out policy. I have submitted this position as my personal opinion in many Senate and House hearings, as well as recommendations to the president.

[Puno] How gradually gradual?

[Ramos] Well, it really depends. But I have said that perhaps if we are shooting at a particular year, that the year 1998 might be very, very useful in terms not only of its graduality but also historically and psychologically because that is the centennial of Philippine independence. So, we cut it off at that particular point. Or if we want a longer period, ah...

[Puno] Irregardless of the amount that may be involved, because some people are saying that we should hold on to a certain amount. If the United States does not want to pay it, then we let them go.

[Ramos] Well, what I am saying is that this is my general view. In terms of the circumstances and the conditions, well, that is something else that has to be negotiated so that all the while Philippine national interests are protected and upheld, you see.

[Puno] Let's talk about the new realities that a lot of people are talking about in terms of the world developments in the Eastern blocs; regional developments; the new importance given to Japan, for example; and the reluctance of the other ASEAN countries to have bases in this region, except for Singapore. Given all of those, do you think bases are, as a matter of fact, in the 1990s and the 21st century still necessary here in the Phlippines? The U.S. bases.

[Ramos] Well, perhaps the land-based weapon system is on the way out in the sense that new technologies are being developed that would allow a weapon system to be either airborne or seaborne. In fact, we have a lot of this now, like the Polaris system which carries a powerful lethal weapon under water. In fact, that can be delivered across miles and miles of space. That's one point. Another point, however, since you have mentioned our neighbors in this Asia-Pacific-China Sea area, is while our country is talking about burden-sharing, maybe a better approach—and I would like to give credit to an ASEAN diplomat from whom I heard this concept—would be benefit-sharing because there is a [word indistinct] combination that exists right now where one plus one is not just equal to two, but one plus one is equal to four. In terms of the economic activities in Asia and the Pacific now as well as what is being forecast, and...

[Puno] In that equation, the bases are not really all that necessary. I mean, it is not now...

[Ramos] What is important is stability. And if the bases provide that stability now and into the future for lack of something else, then maybe it would be of benefit to us as well as our neighbors to have some of them or some portions of them still around. But again, we must examine all of these within the context of Philippine national interests because the regional aspect, of course, is only a secondary position.

[Puno] There are a number of ways in which this negotiation is concerned and the Constitution that makes certain prescriptions about being required to get a treaty, etc., and I think some people are worried that in the event that these things do not add up to an extension of the bases beyond 1991, what is the picture in so far as our defensive posture, the defense of this country is concerned? Are we capable of defending ourselves?

[Ramos] You know, if we are envisioning the invasion a la World War II, I don't think that's going to be the kind of security problem that we will be facing in the future. It will be still internal subversion, infiltration, and the clandestine operations of foreign powers in our country that will be more probable. On the other hand, our defense posture must start from our internal strength, you see, because that not only protects us from infiltration or clandestine operations, but it also promotes the other aspects of the health of our country, which is the economy and the delivery of services to our people.

[Puno] Can you kindly reveal what Defense Secretary of the United States Dick Cheney told you in your meeting? I mean, did he give you any hard messages, any tough questions?

[Ramos] Well, he asked about the bases, of course, and I answered him in the same way I am answering you now. But I said these are my personal opinions because the president will at the right time point the way for the Philippines to follow and this will be developed as we go on to the process of having the exploratory talks, and then perhaps that will lead to the negotiations itself. And then later on, maybe to the cutting off of the treaty making or extension. We will just have to go through the process.

[Puno] But what was his message? Did the U.S. want the bases to stay and if so, until when?

[Ramos] What he said to me was what he has declared publicly: Of course, we want them but if we are not wanted in the host country, we will get out. Now, if they are to be extended it will have to be under conditions that are acceptable to the two countries.

Let me bring the point with regard to Mr. Cheney which has not been really reported properly or fully although it is now out of the bag, so to speak, and that was my proposal for the U.S. to make up for the shortfall in their appropriated money under the best effort pledge. To make up for this in kind because they are deescalating their military pressures in many places, especially in Europe and in their own home country. There are many items which we can make use of. We are not just talking about firearms or helicopters.

[Puno] These are essentially military equipment.

[Ramos] Well, I am talking about engineering equipment. And we already have been using engineering equipment that came through military assistance to great extent in many parts of the country, to help develop the countryside under a civilian program.

[Puno] And did you ask him about your proposal?

[Ramos] Hospital equipments, communications equipments, even for civilian use.

[Puno] What did he say?

[Ramos] Well, he said: You know, not all of these are under my control. There are other agencies involved and maybe even Congress. So he said: We will study it, we will give it a try if our study points to favorable response.

[Puno] We're out of time, sir, and I'll give you that question now from Vicky Gomez, a businesswoman from Makati: Do you have any plans to run for the presidency in 1992?

[Ramos] I am satisfied where I am right now. In 1990.

[Puno] Are you open for a nomination in 1992?

[Ramos] Well, you know, I better concentrate on this job now because if we talk about 1992, that will be creating more insecurities on the part of some people especially, and you know my job is security, so why should I make my job a little harder.

[Puno] [laughs] Okay, thank you very much, Secretary Ramos...

[Ramos] Thank you.

[Puno] ...For a very interesting hour, and I thank you for taking the time, I know, from your very, very tight schedule. And thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for being with us in this edition of "Viewpoint." Until next week and good night.

37 Hurt in Antibases Rally at Clark AFB

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[Text] An antibases rally held outside Clark Air Force Base in Pampanga has turned violent and many were reported hurt. Soldiers used truncheons and a water hose to disperse the 700 protesters. Violence took place when about 100 government soldiers blocked the marchers near the main gate of Clark Air Force Base in Angeles City. It was reported that a clash occurred between the two groups which resulted in the injury of 30 demonstrators and seven soldiers.

Column Views Life Without U.S. Bases

HK1403130090 Quezon City MALAYA in English 14 Mar 90 pp 4, 5

["For Pete's Sake" column by Boo Chanco: "Life After Clark"]

[Text] The time has come for us to strip our bases discussions of the emotional excess baggage conveniently being utilized by grandstanding politicians and scoundrels hiding behind "nationalist" labels. As the end of the agreement approaches, it is important that we get more out of "exploratory" and actual negotiation talks than the usual garbage generated by the issue.

Let us, first of all, consider the realities. One, our government does not have the slightest idea what to do with the bases should they be turned over to us in less than a year-and-a-half. The Abueva committee may have a laundry list of "possibles" but getting even one of them into near implementation stage will take an eternity, given our government's track record. Besides, the comment of Mayor Dick Gordon about how the Abueva group failed to consult affected Olongapo residents is a cause for worry.

Two, because of lack of plans, we will be creating a considerable economic vacuum in the affected areas. I don't mean just so many jobless prostitutes. There are thousands of skilled workers being utilized in the bases, notably in the shipyards of Subic who will find themselves without any means of economic support. We simply cannot aborb them, nor their families in Metro Manila, where they will likely try to look for jobs. The Metro area already suffers from a serious unemployment problem and capability to provide basic services have been stretched to the limit.

Three, the Americans can't or are unwilling to pay the price we think is just compensation for the bases facilities they now use. This is why they are appealing to emotions by citing "mutual defense" and other similar nonsense. But they know they need to retain at least some of these facilities, at least between now and the turn of the century if only to assure themselves as well as allies like Japan that they will be around to see how this glasnost business works.

Four, there is nothing more difficult to evict than a tenant who cannot afford to pay his rent but owns a loaded gun. Ask any landlord. Complicating the situation is the fact that the administrator of the property depends on the tenant's loaded gun for protection to retain rights to administer. And the tenant knows how dependent this administration is. How can the administrator enter into negotiations for ending the lease or even to increase the rent? Hawak sa [held at] you-know-what, in other words.

The only thing working in the landlord's favor is the tenant's avowal of high moral, ethical and democratic principles. The tenant breaks these principles often enough but still finds it necessary to retain a public

image of living it up as a true champion of democracy. As such, tenant cannot go all out in exploiting landlord's utter helplessness.

This being the case, it is not surprising that some thinking is being done by American agencies to seek an honorable and politically acceptable way out of the problem. One approach is to tackle the bases issue as a business, rather than a political issue. This used to be an unacceptable approach denoucned by no less than former State Secretary George Shultz.

MALAYA'S diplomatic reporter Ellen Tordesillas shared with me a document from the U.S. Agency for International Development [US AID] that explores a business-oriented approach to the bases renegotiations. The document opens by describing in general terms, "two negotiating tracks for the U.S.-Philippine Military Installations (PMIs): 1) long-term status quo and 2) medium-term phase out (as against option three which is near term departure)."

The long-term status quo, the document says, will mean "some form of a major financial commitment that will allow the Philippines to buy down their commercial bank debt at a rate faster than they are currently doing with their ESF [Economic Support Fund] and MDB [expansion unknown] resources." A medium-term phase out, on the other hand, will be "a planned, phased conversion of the major PMIs into mixed used facilities.

Whoever wrote the memo (the name was blacked out in the leaked document), does not believe the long-term approach is politically acceptable. This brings us to the medium-term approach which, after all, is the more interesting and possibly more beneficial approach, given our present circumstances.

"At its simplest," the document describes the medium-term approach to call for the phase-down of the military functions of the main US PMIs (John Hay, Clark and Subic/Cubi) and the economi utilization increased. The key elements of the plan according to the U.S. Aid document are:

—Conversion of the use of some or all of the facilities to civilian commercial and Philippine military use.
—Management of the facilities by private contractors.
—Increased purchases from the local economy where there is still substantial possibilities for increases.
—Closing down existing AFP facilities located on prime, extremely high-value land through the relocation to U.S. PMIs and joint use.

The American discussion paper recognizes that the land used by the American bases, the physical facilities, an the trained Filipinos who work for the Americans, represent enormous but grossly underutilized economic assets for the Philippines. The paper further concedes that "under the current approach the potential of these assets contributing to the true creation of wealth is minimal." In other words, we aren't getting enough from the Yanks out of the present arrangement.

Our own leaders may not realize it, but the Americans know that "the location of Clark and Subic on major North-South and East-West shipping and air lanes, and the growth for the Philippines are substantial and certainly unparalleled by anything else in the Philippine economy."

The American paper also believes that this economic approach resolves the rental controversy. "As the plan becomes fully implemented, we will indeed be renting from the Philippine government and contracting with the contractors who manage the facilities. This is no different from going to Singapore to purchase similar services."

Well, cutting the zarzuela presently played by American and Filipino politicians and adopting a business approach to the bases issue may yet save the day...and both parties from an embarrassing situation they wouldn't want to find themselves in. And for the Philippines, there is definitely life after Clark.

Aquino Approves Enrile's Exercise of Democracy

HK1503094990 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 0900 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Excerpts] President Aquino is glad that Senator Juan Ponce Enrile is exercising the democratic process in seeking to run for president in 1992. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording in English] I have nothing against Senator Enrile's announcement that he will run for president in 1992. I am glad he has, thereby explicitly endorsed the democratic process of seeking the leadership of our nation. [end recording]

That was Presidential Spokesman Adolf Azcuna reading the president's statement.

Military on Alert After 'Rumors' of 'Power Grab'

OW1503110990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0903 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Manila, March 15 KYODO—Authorities said Thursday one of the leaders of the bloody December coup bid was arrested on the outskirts of the capital.

A group of officers, meanwhile, called for the resignation of Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos and Armed Forces Chief Gen. Renato De Villa, who warned of a fresh attempt to topple President Corazon Aquino.

Col. Alfredo Filler, chief of staff of the constabulary, said Maj. Wilhelm Doromal, a bomb demolition expert, was captured during an early morning raid of a house in the Tungkong Mangga Village, at the boundary of suburban Quezon and Bulacan Province. Filler said one Galil rifle, several explosives, detonating cords, and blasting caps were seized during the raid. He said Doromal, who was acquitted in the bombing of the Philippine Military

Academy in 1987, did not resist arrest. Authorities have offered a reward of 500,000 pesos, or 22,727 dollars for Doromal's arrest.

Since late January, five ranking leaders of the December 1-9 coup attempt, which left at least 113 dead and more than 600 wounded, have been arrested. The military is searching for an estimated 100 rebel officers who participated in the coup attempt, the sixth and bloodiest yet to try unseating Aquino since she took power in February 1986.

At the Armed Forces headquarters, a group of young officers calling itself the Young Officers Union (YOU) urged Ramos and De Villa to quit since their "inefficiency" has divided the military ranks. In their first official statement, the group branded Ramos and De Villa as "weaklings and misfits" and said the duo "greatly contributed to the continuing demoralization and divisiveness that plague the AFP/INP (Armed Forces of the Philippines/Integrated National Police)." "We once pinned our hopes upon them for our long-sought reforms, but their initial display of idealism and professionalism proved to be mere camouflage to conceal their greed for power," said the statement signed by Capt. Carlos Maglalang.

The group, formed on August 8, 1988, and labeled the "younger version" of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement led by fugitive former Lt. Col. Gregorio Honasan, warned of another coup. It did not say when.

Maglalang said his group is composed mostly of captains and lieutenants "still very much in the active service." His statement did not specify its participation in the December coup attempt.

The 160,000-strong military remains on maximum alert following fresh rumors of a power grab.

Thailand

Paper Warns of Gorbachev's 'Autocratic' Power

BK1503015790 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 15 Mar 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Treading a Twisting Path to 'Democracy'"]

[Text] When Konstantin Chernenko died five years ago this month, only a tiny handful of Russians suspected that his successor would turn out to be the most dynamic communist leader since Lenin. In those five years, Mikhail Gorbachev has turned from an unknown party Apparatchik to something of a cult figure. Many in the West call him "Gorby" with some affection, and many in Eastern Europe call him saviour. Now he has become the most powerful communist leader since Stalin. The Soviet parliament has granted Mr Gorbachev its complete trust. In other countries and under different circumstances, the new powers held by the Soviet leader would be labelled dictatorial. Ironically, for the moment, they are called democratic.

The sweeping powers sought by and awarded to Mr Gorbachev basically allow him to do anything he wants to, from declaring war on alcoholism to declaring war. They removed all visible checks on the authority of the Soviet Union's president which previously were exercised by the Communist Party. The Soviet parliament, obviously as enamoured with Mr Gorbachev as many others in the world, accepted their leader's word that he needed such powers to deal with domestic unrest and economic problems that threaten the entire Russian economy.

Only a few in the Soviet Union questioned the granting of such powers to what Mr Gorbachev calls an "executive presidency." Because they undermine the authority of senior communist bodies, reformers and anti-communists alike joined to support them. Arguments that such powers should not be held by one man were swept aside by the enthusiastic support for Mr Gorbachev and his vision of the future for his nation and the world.

There is, nevertheless, major reason to be worried about the granting of such unlimited authority to one man. Some commentators have compared Mr Gorbachev's new presidential powers to those of his American counterpart George Bush. No such comparison is valid. The US president serves a limited term, and is restricted by a carefully designed system of checks on his power both from elected legislators and appointed courts. Mr Gorbachev and his successors, under the new Soviet law, are specifically immune from such checks. The plan to make the Soviet president an elected official within the next five or six years is itself subject to veto by Mr Gorbachev.

There is no question that Mr Gorbachev, especially in terms of recent Soviet history, is a visionary. But the powers granted him by an admiring parliament also make him something of a dictator. There is no doubt that the Soviet Union is a nation in trouble, swept by fierce economic hurdles and growing, often violent ethnic unrest, which has culminated in the secession of Lithuania from the union. Emergencies call for emergency measures, but the failure to place any time limit on Mr Gorbachev's powers brings into question his commitment to democratic reform. And even should he use his authority wisely and benevolently, as is expected, no one can predict what his successors might do with those same powers.

Only a decade ago, much of the world was extolling the virtues of a Chinese leader who had convinced many of his commitment to reform. But the powers granted to Deng Xiaoping were,in a crisis, used specifically to eradicate differences of opinion and those who held them. Mr Gorbachev in five short years has won trust and admiration from many of his own citizens and much of the outside world. Now that he has legal as well as actual autocratic authority, Mr Gorbachev must be careful to avoid showing the slightest sign of abusing it.

SAP Politicians Urge Cabinet Post Reshuffle

BK1503013590 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 Mar 90 pp 1, 2

[By Aphisak Thanasetthakon and Naowarat Suksamran]

[Text] More than half of the 54 Social Action Party (SAP) MPs [members of Parliament] have endorsed a call to reshuffle the party's Cabinet posts to pressure SAP leader ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sitthi Sawetsila into stepping down and moving to the ceremonial post of party chairman, party sources told THE NATION yesterday.

SAP's lobbyists for the reshuffle aim to replace Sitthi with deputy leader Phong Sarasin as party leader and move the foreign minister to the post of deputy prime minister in place of Phong. Phong, according to the lobbyists, would be nominated to the post of commerce minister or industry minister.

The commerce portfolio is currently held by SAP deputy leader Subin Pinkhayan, who is targetted for removal from the Cabinet by party members while the industry post is held by Pol Gen [Police General] Praman Adireksan of the Chat Thai Party. The lobbyists said they plan to let Chat Thai take control of the Foreign Ministry in exchange for the industry portfolio.

A push for a party meeting to discuss changes in the SAP ministers' posts reportedly had the blessing of party secretary general Montri Phongphanit, now the most influential figure in the second largest coalition party.

Phong reportedly prefers no changes, fearing it could harm the unity of the party, but he may have no choice but to accept the top party post if Sitthi succumbs to the pressure, the sources said. They added that the deputy party leader would try to delay the meeting until Sitthi returns from Europe on March 17.

Montri had reportedly consulted with Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan over his ideas for a Cabinet reshuffle. However, Montri yesterday denied any knowledge of the call signed by about half the 54 SAP MPs, claiming he had yet to receive the formal proposal that was submitted on Tuesday [13 March] to the director of the party's secretariat.

He said if the story was true, the party would have to call a meeting of its executives and MPs to discuss the proposal. "I am not in a position to comment. I have to see how the majority of the party MPs react to the proposal," the minister said. He said that SAP had many MPs qualified for ministerial posts if a Cabinet reshuffle was decided upon.

In the proposal signed by at least 25 MPs, the proponents urged party leader Sitthi to call an urgent meeting this month for a debate on the need to reshuffle the SAP Cabinet to improve the reputation of the party.

Without mentioning any names, the signatories said in the letter that many SAP ministers failed to perform their duty effectively or promote the party while some were tainted by scandals.

Informed soures said that the prime movers for the reshuffle aimed to push for the removal of at least three ministers—Commerce Minister Subin Pinkhayan, Deputy Commerce Minister Phinya Chuaiplot and Deputy Foreign Minister Prapaht Limpaphan. Another possible target is Deputy Interior Minister Santi Chaiwirattana but unlike the other three ministers, Santi would be moved to another Cabinet post rather than being dropped altogether from the Cabinet, the sources said.

The sources said that Subin was singled out in early meetings of the prime movers for his alleged failure to solve the current cement shortage. The SAP MPs also reasoned that the minister should be replaced because he had only a handful of followers in the party.

Phinya embarrassed the party after he allowed an entertainment firm to import 15 video game software packages last month despite a ban on the items. He later rescinded the approval after it was leaked to the press. "Phinya is going to be an easy target of the no-confidence motion the Opposition plans to call when parliament reconvenes in May," said one of the reshuffle lobbyists.

The MPs also privately accused Praphat of "having monopolized a Cabinet post." for about 10 years now. Moreover, they charged that Praphat failed to help party members or contribute to the party's growth.

Informed sources said that Phinya, Praphat, Santi and Deputy Education Minister Mai Sirinawakun were singled out in the original draft for the reshsuffle. The names were however, dropped in the revised draft to save the face of ministers. The lobbyists will propose secret voting on which ministers should be replaced at the party meeting.

The sources said that Montri had asked for a copy of the second draft and had earlier urged the prime movers to submit it directly to him in a discreet manner to avoid adverse repercussions to the party's image.

The senior SAP MPs who are likely to be included in the reshuffle Cabinet are Krongkan Wisommai, Prayut Siriphanit, Chawalit Osathanukhro and Somsak Thepsuthin.

Regarded as a key lobbyist in the campaign, Roi Et MP Nirand Namuangrak said that more than half of the 54 SAP MPs had signed the letter addressed to ACM Sitthi. He said that Kalasin MP Aphichat Halamchiak and Sukhothai MP Kuson Mithep were assigned by the lobbyists to seek more signatures for the list calling for the reshsuffle.

Wiwathanachai na Kalasin, another SAP prime mover from Kalasin, said the group was pushing for a Cabinet reshuffle to improve the image of the party and the

coalition government as a whole. "Such a change should be regarded as normal now that the government is in its second year. The move is also aimed at preparing the party for the next general election," he said.

Prayut sought to downplay the campaign, saying it would not lead to a split within the party. "It's a SAP in-house affair and will not affect outsiders," Prayut said.

He claimed that more than 30 SAP MPs had endorsed the call.

8.5 Percent Economic Growth 'Expected' in 1990

BK1503022590 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 15 Mar 90 p 20

[Text] The Thai economy is expected to expand at a slower rate this year—about 8.5 percent compared with 10.8 percent in 1989. The Bank of Thailand's Economic Research Department said the slower growth this year was in line with the slowdown in the global economy.

Production in both the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors is expected to grow at a slower pace, but price increases will accelerate due to the continued imbalance between domestic demand and supply.

The trade and current accounts are estimated to record slightly larger deficits, but the overall balance of payments is expected to remain favourable.

A continued cash surplus is forecast in the Government's fiscal position, but by a smaller amount than last year.

The outlook for the Thai economy in 1990 may be summarised as follows:

Production

—Agricultural production is expected to increase 1 percent. Crop output will expand at a slower rate due to limitations on the expansion of planted areas, the unfavourable prices of a number of crops and delayed and sporadic rainfalls in 1989.

The resulting low water levels in irrigation dams used for dry-season crops are expected to cause a significant decline in output, resulting in a significant drop in the output of the second paddy crop. The typhoon at the end of 1989 will also lead to a decline in output of rubber, coconut and coffee in some regions.

The fishery output is expected to be sluggish due to problems in expanding joint fishing ventures into new fishing grounds, while the cultivation of black tiger prawns will slow due to the low price in 1989.

Livestock production is expected to grow at a faster rate than 1989 as favourable prices induce an increase in swine output.

The effect of the forest closure will lead to a marked decline in forestry output as the amount of timber allowed to enter the market will be limited to that from mangrove forests and rubber trees. This timber is expected to amount to around 20 percent of output prior to the forest closure.

—Non-agricultural production is expected to expand by 10 percent with growth slowing in virtually every sector, except for housing construction which should grow at a slightly higher rate.

The sectors that will continue to grow at high rates include construction due to an increase in public-sector construction as set out in the budget, especially for rural development and public utilities including ports, expressways, electricity, water supply and telephones.

Private-sector construction, in the meantime, is expected to expand at a slightly slower rate.

The growth of manufacturing production will slow as many industries face capacity constraints. However, as the domestic market and export conditions will remain favourable, manufacturing production will continue to register a relatively high growth rate.

Expenditure

—Private expenditure is expected to slow from 1989 as private consumption decelerates due to the slowdown in the growth of income, particularly farm income. Private investment growth will be slower than the previous two years, but it is expected to continue to grow at a high rate due to continuing large construction and investment projects from 1989 and many construction projects in the Eastern Seaboard areas.

—Government consumption expenditure will grow at a higher rate than in 1989 in line with the budget appropriation for fiscal 1990. Government investment will rise sharply as the Government places greater emphasis on investments in provincial areas and public utilities in response to demand. State-enterprise investment will expand at a similar rate to 1989, with an emphasis on public utilities.

Price Levels

Price levels are expected to rise at a high rate in 1990. The consumer price index is expected to climb 6-6.5 percent for the year, while the producer price index will rise by around 5.5 percent. A factor contributing to increased prices in 1990 is the continued expansion in demand. Investment, in particular, will continue to be buoyant due to continuing large government and private-sector construction projects carried on from 1989 and started in 1990, which will result in excess demand for construction materials.

Many industries are also operating at or near full capacity, and any capacity in 1990 will not be adequate. Such industries include cement, beer, vehicles, motorcycles, steel rods and glass. Production costs for such industries are also expected to soar.

International Trade and Payments

—Exports will continue to expand at a high rate of around 19 percent. The growth of eight principal exports are expected to slow in line with the decline in world commodity prices, while other exports will keep on growing at high rates despite a slight deceleration from last year in line with global economic conditions.

—Imports are expected to expand at a slower rate of around 20 percent, as oil imports increase only slightly due to the ability to shift to some domestic substitutes. Non-oil imports will decelerate slightly, although imports of capital goods will continue to expand at a high rate due to continuing large-scale investment projects.

—The trade account is expected to register a deficit of 160,000 million baht, up 30,000 million baht over last year. A slightly larger surplus is estimated for the service and unrequited transfer account through the slowdown in income from tourism and rise in interest payments due to the large amount of borrowings in 1989.

—The current account will register a larger deficit, while net capital inflows are expected to decline slightly. As a result, the overall balance of payments will continue to record a surplus, although of a smaller amount than in 1989.

Fiscal Position

The Government's fiscal position is expected to remain satisfactory. The Government's cash balance will register a surplus for a third consecutive year. The amount will decline, however, as government revenue collection slows in line with economic activities and government expenditure soars in accordance with the 17 percent rise in the budget appropriation and the large amount of carry-over expenditure from last year's budget.

Vietnam

Article Views U.S. Asia-Pacific Strategy

BK1403152190 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 10 Mar 90

[NHAN DAN 10 March article by Le Ba Thuyen: "The Bush Administration and Its Asia-Pacific Strategy"]

[Text] In his trip to Japan, South Korea, and the Philippines last February, U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney talked about the readjustment of U.S. defense policy and about U.S. troop cutbacks in Asia and the Pacific. What does this mean? Just as former Defense Secretary Weinburger of the Reagan administration advocated earlier, the current Asia-Pacific strategy pursued by the Bush administration still relies on some important props. The first is a huge, 300,000-strong force of which part is stationed on the U.S. mainland and the remainder deployed under a massive network of 350 U.S. military bases in the Pacific strategic arc, mainly in Japan, South Korea, and the Philippines. This Pacific strategic arc is linked with another arc in the Indian Ocean by the very important base on the Diego Garcia archipelago. The U.S. Pacific fleet with hundreds of warships and thousands of aircraft is now under intensive modernization.

This time, in planning to readjust the overall U.S. strategy of cutbacks in troops and military spending to overcome domestic economic and financial difficulties, the Pentagon advocates cutting between 10,000-12,000 soldiers, mainly technical and logistical personnel, from the total 120,000 U.S. troops stationed in Japan, South Korea, and the Philippines in the next three years. This is a small troop cutback, considering the total number of U.S. troops stationed in the region. This cutback may help the United States save some $10 billion per year in military spending. However, to compensate for the cutback in numerical strength as revealed by Cheney, the Pentagon has devised a renovation and modernization plan to enable U.S. forces to fulfill their duties. This would maintain or even strengthen the combat potential of U.S. troops in the region.

The second prop is the U.S.-Japanese alliance. In his trip to Tokyo last year, President Bush declared that this alliance is a bipartite alliance of regional and global significance. It consists of 50,000 U.S. troops stationed in some 100 military bases in Japan and 350 soldiers of the Japanese Defense Force. The Japanese Defense Force is, in fact, a modern-equipped regular army tied to Washington's war chariot under the U.S.-Japanese security treaty. The United States wants to turn the Japanese archiplego into an unsinkable aircraft carrier to serve U.S. global strategy. In its attempt to readjust its defense strategy this time, Washington is executing a two-tier policy. On the one hand, it strives to draw Tokyo more tightly to a military alliance with the United States by pressuring Japan into responding to the policy of responsibility-sharing and into increasing its financial and manpower contributions to the U.S. plan. On the other hand, it seeks to restrain Tokyo's strengths both militarily and economically. U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney openly said that Japan should maintain its military potential at its present level. Public opinion is very concerned about Cheney's first-ever attempt to link the pace of resolving U.S.-Japanese trade with the U.S. defense policy toward Japan. He threatened that differences in trade between the two countries, if not averted, would spill over into other areas.

The third prop being strengthened by the United States is the Northeast Asian military alliance or the Washington-Tokyo-Seoul (South Korea) axis which, made up of 49,000 U.S. troops stationed in over 50 military bases and 600,000 U.S.-equipped South Korean troops, is regarded as an ideal overland springboard in Northeast Asia and designed to serve Washington's two-pincer strategy against the Soviet Union and other socialist countries and to control the East Asian and North Pacific regions. The Pentagon's plan in this readjustment, which calls for merging three U.S. air bases in South Korea into one and withdrawing thousands of

U.S. military personnel, does not affect in any way the combat potential of the two countries as already pledged by Cheney. The U.S. defense secretary's statement that U.S. troops will remain on the South Korean peninsula as long as the peoples and governments of South Korea and the United States want them to do so has revealed Washington's attempt to prolong the presence of U.S. troops on this burning peninsula.

In the Pacific strategic arc, the two huge military bases—Clark and Subic—in the Philippines occupy a very important position. Not only are they used to oversee the Southeast Asian region and control various sea lanes in the Eastern Pacific, but they are also regarded as a strategic springboard for a 300,000-strong U.S. rapid deployment force—RDF—to quickly move from the United States to Okinawa through Clark and Subic bases into the Indian Ocean and the Middle East to oppose liberation and national independence movements.

In his recent trip, Cheney advocated cutting only 2,000 of the 17,000 U.S. troops stationed in the Philippines over the next three years. Washington is trying to bargain and pressure Manila in a bid to maintain the two strategic bases after 1991. Meanwhile, various alternative plans have been made to cope with the situation, if necessary. These include discussions on the use of Singapore-owned bases and building a new base on Palau Island in the Pacific Ocean.

The U.S. Asia-Pacific defense strategy adjustment program is being carried out at a time when Washington is facing many problems and contradictions resulting from the towering U.S. economic and financial difficulties; a continuing U.S.-Japanese economic conflict; an ROK demand for command of the joint U.S.-ROK forces; the different ways the United States, Japan, and Australia interpret danger in the Asia-Pacific region; the deterioration of U.S.-New Zealand relations; the collapse of the ANZUS [Australia-New Zealand-United States] military pact; and the support public opinion in Southeast Asia and the southwestern part of the Pacific region has given the antinuclear movement. Nonetheless, various U.S. strategy adjustment policies and measures as well as the redefinition of long-term U.S. interests in the Asia-Pacific region that Defense Secretary Cheney talked about indicate that the fundamental objectives of this strategy remain unchanged. This means that efforts continue to be made to keep the Asia-Pacific region in the U.S. orbit in order to use it as a weapon against socialist countries, national independence movements, and other movements for patriotism and progress in the region.

With the Pentagon's advocating maintenance of the same outer defense force in this region, combining the nuclear deterrent policy with the forward defense strategy, and feverishly implementing the competitive strategy, everyone has more clearly realized that Washington's aggressive, belligerent Asia-Pacific strategy is posing a danger to the peace, security, independence, and sovereignty of countries in the region.

Army Paper Reviews Changes in Eastern Europe

BK1403145590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Article by Hong Thanh Quang in 4 March QUAN DOI NHAN DAN reviewing the present situation in the East European countries]

[Text] Following the events in Poland and Hungary during the last months of 1989 and the first two months of 1990, the countries in Eastern Europe have undergone continual, complex, and astonishing changes. The process of restructuring, reform, and renovation in these countries has gradually been transformed into increasingly serious crises. This manifests the general characteristics of the situation in the East European countries.

The salient feature of this sociopolitical change is the serious crisis concerning the social model and the path of development that follows. Because of irresistible demands by the people, the need for social change has become a pressing question. Realities in the recent past show that the move to break from the old model in a country can be undertaken with less tension and less danger if the communists in that country know how to look squarely at the truth to actively carry out renovation themselves or to lead the entire people in this process. On the contrary, those who intentionally try to turn a deaf ear or a blind eye to the demands of the age and the wishes of the people are likely to meet a tragic end.

The trend of change in the present situation shows that there is no way for all East European countries to return to the past. However, the crisis continues to grow in Eastern Europe, thus giving rise to many difficult problems. All the East European countries still seem to be groping their way through a search for a new model. Some have changed names and national emblems and tried to cast off such familiar symbols as a red star or the adjective socialist. Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia have declared themselves republics. After Ceausescu was toppled, the Socialist Republic of Romania had been renamed Romania.

In many of these countries, the state of social division has been revealed even more strikingly. The Communist Parties in Poland, Romania, and Czechoslovakia have not only lost their right of leadership specified in the constitution but, in fact, have become opposition parties. In Czechoslovakia, the president of the country, president of the federal assembly, and premier of the government are not among the ranks of the Communist Party. In Romania, after the overthrow of Ceausescu, the Communist Party has only 3 million members left and has become almost paralyzed. In Poland, contradictions have reportedly occurred between a group of party members, who serve as members of parliament, and the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers Party, now the Social Democratic Party. The United Socialist Party of Germany has now been renamed the Party of Democratic Socialism. In Yugoslavia, the ranks of communists have been split and the League of Communists

of Slovania has declared itself an independent political organization that does not subordinate to the League of Communists of Yugoslavia.

The armies of some countries such as Poland and Czechoslovakia have been depoliticized, and all Communist Party organzitions in these armies have been dissolved. Meanwhile, a multiparty system and political pluralism have become a reality in all East European countries. In Hungary, there are more than 20 parties and factions and hundreds of other political organizations. Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Romania, and Bulgaria also face the same situation. The practical influence of communists on the change in the situation in a number of countries has declined gravely. The chairman of the Party of Democratic Socialism of Germany has said that it would be a victory for the communists in the GDR if they won 20 percent of votes in the elections in May this year.

However, changes in the political structures have failed to immediately bring about magnificent economic results. In countries where communists no longer retain the right of leadership, the people's livelihood, instead of being improved, faces still greater difficulties. In switching to the market price system, Hungary has raised food prices 22-33 percent and certain types of service charges by as much as 335 percent. In Poland, electricity and water bills have increased by 400 percent, and prices for medicine have increased by 200 percent. Meanwhile, work related to social insurance has declined gravely. In Romania, many factories have been compelled to suspend operations or to operate at less than full capacity because of a lack of raw materials and fuel. Unemployment is becoming an increasingly greater problem for Eastern Europe. The signs of economic instability, which are appearing more clearly, have a negative, reciprocal effect on the political situation.

Against this background, the leaders of some East European countries have made trips to the West, hoping to rely on the developed capitalist countries to restore their economies. However, as the Swedish paper LIBERATION put it, the countries belonging to the free world are still far from generous. For Poland, which has a population of 37 million, the $5 billion aid promised by the West is only enough to distribute $134 to each citizen. It seems as if no East European country has been able to find a solution to its economic problems. So far, no leaders of the present East European governments have dared to declare that they will advance their countries along the path of capitalist development, despite the fact that this tendency has been exhibited in certain countries. No one can deny the fine spiritual values of a socialist society. Even Lech Walesa, leader of the Solidarity trade union, has said that he will preserve these values. Many people have affirmed that East European countries cannot extricate themselves from the present difficult economic situation by readopting the capitalist system. These countries still have to face tough challenges, as elections in the days ahead may result in many unexpected changes. After the first storm, instead of becoming crystal clear, the sky remains obscured by masses of dark clouds.

Tran Bach Dang Views Party Plenum Program

Installment One

BK1303145590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 5 Mar 90

["First installment" of Tran Bach Dang's essay giving his "views on the program of the party Central Committee's eighth plenum"]

[Text] The fact that a party Central Committee's plenum program has been released for public consultation is a significant move toward renovation. Another signficant move toward renovation is that mass motivation work has been made the main topic for a party Central Committee plenum. For the most part, those studying the program have, however, found it disappointing.

Although in name the program is about renovation, its essence is, in fact, still very antiquated. Because it is antiquated, the program fails to correctly reflect the changes among the people of various strata in our country 15 years after their total liberation. A number of differences are emerging in society and in the party-people relationship. That is why there has been a failure to bring forth necessary and correct scientific concepts, measures, and requirements for renovation that the entire party and people are now particularly concerned about and that, created by the national situation, are to be reasonably settled. The program reiterates almost everything already cited hundreds of times in various party decisions and resolutions. The name of the program itself is therefore not suitable.

Then what is a pressing problem for our party, people, and country at present? The danger of the party's alienating itself from the masses and the masses' distancing themselves from the party poses a serious threat to the party's leading role, the steady growth of socialism, and the vital stability of the country. As a result, the logic of the party's thinking now is: On the one hand, the party must attach itself to the masses and must return to the source from which it came; on the other hand, the party must rely on the masses' strength to rectify itself while creating all national affairs under the party leadership and in the direction of building socialism. The immediate aim of this is to serve the cause of economic, social, and political renovation in accordance with the resolution of the sixth party congress and with the epochal trend in order to develop initial successes of the revolutionary undertaking already affirmed by objective realities. The three areas cited above are an integrated whole. Positively, they must be closely bound and mutually supported and help one another guard against negative phenomena.

The reason we need a party Central Committee plenum to discuss mass mobilization work is that there have

been many signs of splits in the otherwise flesh-and-blood relationship between the party and the people. In the past, the party leadership led to three victories of international scale, namely the August Revolution, the anti-French war of resistance, and the anti-U.S. war of resistance. Over the past few years, it has successfully led the initial steps of renovation. People nationwide and world public opinion, including those forces which do not like us, have recognized this fact. Meanwhile, the party must recognize that the Vietnamese nation and people are very heroic. Thanks to the revolutionary tradition and spirit of our people, our party has scored many great achievements in the past as well as at present. The above two elements must accompany each other and interact to advance.

Bitter experience learned from a host of socialist countries shows that once a party, resulting from a tendency to rest on one own's past laurels and to worship oneself to the point of divination, becomes arrogant and absolutizes its leading role, all of its glories will be buried in a waiting abyss. The wisdom of genuine Communist Party members lies in the fact that they can uncover and resolutely overcome their own weaknesses.

Installment Two

BK1403114590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 5 Mar 90

["Remaining part" of Tran Bach Dang's essay giving his "views on the program of the party Central Committee's eighth plenum"]

[Text] In part one, the draft program talks about the general situation. This part relatively reflects the real situation and sets a premise for detailed contents of the program. However, a very important point is missing: The party has not exploited the masses' strength to consolidate its power, especially in the organization of human affairs. In this regard, the program does not really realize the fact that when the masses are weak, the party must strive to enhance their abilities. Looking from a dialectical correlation angle, many party members are weaker than the people in terms of knowledge, enthusiasm, and quality. This is a very important factor affecting the mass mobilization work. As a result, the party vanguard characteristics are not respected, especially by the younger generation. A party and state's correct policy meeting aspirations of the people and a brilliant, complete collective of party members who selflessly sacrifice for the party are moving forces most effectively integrating and motivating the people. In fact, changes in the class and people struggles should have been carefully analyzed in the past several years, but no mass mobilization work program could be applied peranently without revision to suit concrete changes in various areas, especially in the socioeconomic and psychological domains against the background of changes in the world.

In part two, the draft program talks about the objectives, concepts, and tasks of the mass mobilization work. Generally speaking, this part is presented in a confusing manner because objectives can be regarded as concepts and vice versa, and we should not set up a formula for what we want to emphasize. The question here is whether it is necessary to separate the objective of the developing role of the masses from that of renovating the party leadership. Moreover, the program does not mention the masses' role in strengthening the party tradition. Concepts in renovation have been repeatedly stipulated in many party documents, and nothing new is mentioned in this part except in section three which talks about flexible methods to gather the people and meet their diverse aspirations and section four which talks about resolving the people's legitimate interests. All major tasks mentioned in part two—with the longest description—are part of the already announced socioeconomic development program.

In part three, the draft program talks about the party leadership, state management, and the activities of various mass organizations. The description in this part is not made in a uniform manner, and many details are beyond the framework of the resolution on mass mobilization work. Take section three, for instance, which urges the renovation of the organization and operation of mass organizations. This is a violation of the principle raised by the program itself, which advocates freedom in operation of mass organizations. Party resolutions should stress only the general orientation and not minor details in carrying out tasks. Moreover, classification of mass societies is not made in a renovative manner while only a brief description is made on social components playing an important political role, such as groups of citizens, workers, intellectuals, and ethnic minority people, including the Chinese, Khmer, Cham, religious, and bourgeois groups as well as the overseas Vietnamese. There is a regrettable mistake in the section on mass and religious organizations, that is the Catholic Solidarity Committee is regarded as a mass society while the Vietnam Buddhist Association is recognized as a religion. It is not appropriate for the program to go into detail on the organization of religious groups while failing to set forth a renovative policy on this matter.

The program's recognition to the Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF] is obsolete to reality and is divergent from the concept of Marxism. The VFF is not an organization similar to other mass societies, but it is an alliance linking the party with other mass organizations. As a result, the role of the VFF must be listed first. The party, through assuming the political leadership role, should hold dialogues with various mass organizations in an equal footing for the common effort to reach a consensus in the next several decades. All mass organizations, including our party, earnestly wish to build communism. As a result, they should work together in a compromising manner to build an independent, unified, peaceful, democratic, strong, and prosperous Vietnam. This is the essence of socialism as explained by Uncle Ho's testament. The way the higher echelon recognized the VFF

activities will not help them to respond to great changes in our planet and in socialist countries.

The Communist Party comprises atheists, while religions beliefs are prevalent in society and will remain so for a long time. Besides efforts to find a solution for a political consensus, do we have any other options? Going through the draft program, I realize that too many qualitative adjectives are used to describe various issues. The renovation undertaking, for instance, is described as becoming the people's revolutionary action movement, while in reality we still have to struggle arduously to achieve this.

In sum, a new draft program is needed to suit the efforts and energy of a party Central Committee plenum. In the present world situation, the Vietnamese people are consistently loking forward to the resolution of each party Central Committee plenum. I think this is the most earnest wish of each Vietnamese communist; it is also the demand for the high sense of responsibility from the highest leading organ of the party. All people are looking forward to seeing a more compact resolution—about one-third the length of the draft program—with better quality, fewer words, and more meanings presented in a truly renovative fashion. Through the resolution, the people should see that their feelings and aspirations are noted and that the party truly represents these feelings and aspirations.

Binh Dinh Committee Views Party Draft Program

BK1503065990 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] The standing body of the Binh Dinh provincial party committee recently held an expanded conference of the provincial party committee to contribute opinions to the program on renovating and intensifying the party's mass mobilization work and truly promoting the people's right to mastery. In their opinions, almost all of the participants held that by making public its draft program for soliciting opinions, the party Central Committee has shown that it clearly understands the enormous importance of this issue and its profound significance in light of the present situation. They also said that the announcement of the program has been made at the right time, as it cannot be delayed any longer.

Council Promulgates Statute of Court Executors

BK1303140890 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] Pursuant to the Regulation on Execution of Civil Court Rulings promulgated by the Council of State on 28 August 1989 and the justice minister's recommendation, the Council of Ministers recently promulgated the Statute of Executors. The statute clearly stipulates: Executors are persons entrusted by the state with the responsibility of executing sentences passed by courts of law. The number of executors serving each court will be decided by the justice minister according to the actual volume of work of the court concerned. Wherever there are more than two executors, a chief executor may be appointed. To be appointed executor, a person must measure up to political standards, be honest and impartial, possess necessary legal knowledge, have a firm grasp of the court sentence execution profession, and show a sense of defending the socialist legal system.

Executors will be given identical uniforms and insignia. Insignia are to be worn on hats, and on fall-winter and spring-summer uniforms. Other necessary uniforms will be distributed. Chief executors and executors of provincial and district people's courts will be issued identity cards for use in performing their duties. Executor cards may not substitute for mission orders, official letters of introduction, or citizen's identity card. Use of executor uniforms and cards for private purposes is strictly prohibited. Persons misusing executor uniforms and cards for lawful purposes will be punished according to the law. Persons using fake executor uniforms and cards to commit illegal acts will be subject to disciplinary action or criminal investigation.

Ho Chi Minh City Sets Economic Tasks for 1990

BK1403061590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] The People's Council of Ho Chi Minh City has recently decided that the city's tasks for 1990 are to continue efforts to stabilize the socioeconomic situation on the basis of renovating the economic management mechanism and to restore and developing production and business activities with foreign economic cooperation as the main thrust. On consumer and export goods production, the city will give priority to increasing production of items that can yield a high level of capital accumulation. It will also strive to increase the value of gross grain production by 15-20 percent over 1989.

An important measure to ensure fulfillment of these targets is the provision of capital for production. A solution to this problem should include an effort to sell the 682-billion-dong worth of backlog materials and goods. The city will strictly control all sources of budget revenue and mobilize more capital through the collection of service fees and implementation of state-private joint projects. It will also broaden foreign economic relations to promptly meet production requirements by expanding on-the-spot export operations and tourist activities that generate income in foreign currency and by raising the total import-export value by 25 percent over 1989.

NHAN DAN Views Agricultural Tax Exemption

BK1403052990 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 8 Mar 90

[9 March NHAN DAN editorial: "A Policy Aimed at Promoting Agricultural Development and the Peasants' Standards of Living"]

[Text] Pursuant to the resolution adopted by the sixth session of the Eighth National Assembly, the Council of Ministers recently issued a decision to grant agricultural tax exemption for one year in accordance with the testament of President Ho Chi Minh. Those who will benefit from this decision are agricultural production cooperatives, agricultural production collectives, and individual peasant households. The tax exemption will be applied for two years, 1990 and 1991. The beneficiaries will be exempted each year from 50 percent of the tax slated for collection according to the tax register.

The decision to grant the exemption in conformity with Uncle Ho's testament is a major measure, a significant policy which reflects our party's and state's constant concern for agriculture and the present standard of living of peasants, who number more than 50 million in the rural areas. This is neither a favor nor a relief measure normally taken when the people suffer from hunger and hardship. On the contrary, it is an investment in agriculture and in the interests of peasants which is marked by strong party-people solidarity.

Along with this policy, we should continue to improve the mechanism of economic management in agriculture and amend and revise the system of economic policies in conformity with the spirit of Resolution No. 10 of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee. This is to create favorable conditions for the cooperatives, production collectives, and peasant households to bring into full play all their production capabilities to develop a stable commodity-oriented agriculture. Besides economic policies, the state should adopt a social welfare policy to show that it truly cares for the livelihood of families entitled to welfare benefits, poor peasant families, people in newly opened areas, and ethnic minority groups, thereby ensuring for them a stable material life and a healthy, rich cultural life.

The implementation of the decision to grant the tax exemption for one year must be organized and guided in a truly satisfactory manner, especially at the grass-roots level. On their part, the cooperatives, production collectives and all peasant households must clearly see the policy of the party and state in fostering the people's strength to bring into play their sense of mastery, industry and creativity in the fields, and really contribute to successfully implementing the three major economic programs laid down by the sixth party congress.

Ministry on Nationwide Agricultural Production

BK1503073990 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Summary] According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, as of 5 March all localities throughout the country had planted more than 2 million hectares of winter-spring rice. This figure represents 98 percent of the planned norm and 104 percent of the cultivated area in the same period last year.

The southern provinces have planted winter-spring rice on nearly 1 million hectares, an increase of 90,000 hectares compared with 1989. Some of these localities have harvested 220,000 hectares of this rice with a yield of six to seven metric tons per hectare—higher than the same period last year. In the north, leaf folders have damaged 10,000 hectares of winter-spring rice in Quang Binh Province while young leaf folders have ravaged large areas of this rice in the Bac Bo provinces. In the south, brown leafhoppers, white leafhoppers, and leaf folders have also harmed tens of thousands of hectares of rice in the Mekong River Delta and central coastal provinces. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry urges all localities to concentrate efforts on caring for and protecting winter-spring rice against insects and disease.

Rice, Other Crop Planting Nationwide Reported

BK1503055090 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] To date, all localities throughout the country have basically completed the transplanting of winter-spring rice. Because transplanting began early and was done more quickly than the preceeding fifth-month spring rice crop, rice plants have grown healthily. However, last week's cloudy days and lack of sunshine have somewhat affected the growth of rice and subsidiary food crops. Various localities are tending the rice plants and are trying to control root suffocation disease, maintain sufficient water supply, and promptly destroy harmful insects. In the south, localities have finished harvesting the fifth-month spring rice crop. However, the planting of subsidiary food crops has been slower than last year. As of 5 March, only 430,000 hectares had been planted throughout the country, with the northern provinces claiming credit for 377,000 hectares. Meanwhile, short-term industrial crops have been grown faster than last year. In particular, the groundnut area increased by 29 percent compared to the area cultivated during the same period last year.

Health Minister Meets Donor Representatives

BK1303154990 Hanoi VNA in English 1513 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 13—Vietnamese Health Minister Pham Song had a cordial meeting here this morning with representatives of the specialized U.N. agencies and donor countries who have been helping Vietnam in the improvement and development of health work.

Mr. Pham Song briefed his guests on the health situation in Vietnam over the past few years and brought out the significant progress, especially in the primary healthcare and immunisation programmes. He also pointed to the shortcomings and weaknesses as well as difficulties of the Vietnamese health service in addressing the vast problems posed by the shortage of material equipment, means for disease detection and treatment, well-trained personnel, etc., even though the government has recently

approved a 35 per cent increment of budget expenditures for the medical service. Pham Song said that in this year and in the 1991-1995 five-year plan the health service will focus its efforts on seven priority programmes of which first attention will be given to the combat against malaria and the six common diseases among the children as well as to the expansion and consolidation of grass-roots primary healthcare.

Speaking on behalf of the donor agencies and countries, Mr. David Smith, co-ordinator of the Specialized U.N. Development Systems in Vietnam, expressed his high appreciation of Vietnam's efforts in the healthcare programme and promised to effect closer coordination among the various U.N. agencies and donor countries in order to help Vietnam's health service achieve its targets set for 1990 and the next five-year plan.

Copyright Protection Cooperation With USSR

BK1503073690 Hanoi VNA in English 0704 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 15—A document on cooperation in copyright protection between Vietnam and the Soviet Union was signed here yesterday by the Vietnamese Ministry of Culture and a delegation of the All-union Copyright Protection Agency (VAAP) of the Soviet Union currently on a working visit to Vietnam.

The delegation, led by the VAAP's first vice-chairman G.A. Kondakov, was received by Minister of Culture Tran Van Phac and had contacts with a number of Vietnam's art and literature associations, the Vietnam Film Archives and the Vietnam Cinematographic Department.

Before leaving for Ho Chi Minh city this morning, the Soviet head-delegate held a press conference here to brief newsmen and representatives of concerned Vietnamese offices and branches on their agency's organization, working principles and operational scale over the past 17 years.

NHAN DAN Welcomes Haitian People's Victory

BK1503082490 Hanoi VNA in English 0715 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 15—The national daily NHAN DAN today welcomes the overthrow of the Prosper Avril dictatorship on March 10 as the new victory of the Haitian people in their struggle for democracy and development.

The paper says: Since the collapse on February 7, 1986 of Jean Claude Duvalier, a dictator ruling Haiti for nearly three decades, his successors have maintained a Duvalier regime without Duvalier in that Caribbean country and enforced a no less rapacious exploitation policy, aggravating the economy of that poorest country in the western hemisphere.

The paper is optimistic that the provisional Haitian government with Mrs. Ertha Pascal Trouillot as president will organize presidential and parliamentary elections within 90 days as it has promised in order to meet the aspiration of the six million Haitians for democracy and progress.

Papau New Guinea

Coup Attempt by Police Commissioner Fizzles Out

BK1503023890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0224 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text) Sydney, March 15 (AFP)—Members of the police force tried to mount a coup against Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu, but the attempt quickly fizzled out, a spokesman for the Australian High Commission in Port Moresby said Thursday [15 March].

The commission spokesman told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE by telephone that Police Commissioner Paul Tohian had attempted to move on the prime minister in a dispute over policy on troubled Bougainville island. Word of the plot quickly spread and Mr. Tohian's resignation for "personal reasons" was announced on national radio.

Reports that he was under house arrest could not be confirmed.

Mr. Namaliu and opposition leader Paias Wingte were moved to secret locations as soon as news of the police move became known, the spokesman said.

But a diplomatic source in Wellington said there was no coup attempt and that Mr. Tohian was fired for suggesting that he was about to become prime minister. The source said that on Wednesday night, Mr. Tohian, who had been drinking, strongly criticised the regime. Shortly afterwards, several ministers saw a heavy armed police presence in Port Moresby and assumed a coup was under way. "We dont think it was even an attempted coup, we think it was drink talking," the source said.

Additional Details Reported

BK1503032590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0307 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Sydney, March 15 (AFP)—Papua New Guinea's police commissioner resigned Thursday [15 March] after apparently trying to whip up soldiers against Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu, diplomats in Port Moresby said Thursday.

Circumstances of the challenge to Mr. Namaliu on Wednesday night were not immediately clear, with the Australian Foreign Ministry in Canberra calling it a "disturbance" rather than a coup attempt. But it forced Mr. Namaliu to go into hiding for several hours, a spokesman for the Australian High Commission in Port Moresby said.

Mr. Tohian, controller of the state of emergency on Bougainville, was understood to have opposed the government's cease-fire with rebel landowners waging a guerrilla war there since November 1988.

The Australian High Commission spokesman in Port Moresby told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE by telephone that Mr. Tohian tried to take action late Wednesday. He said that Mr. Tohian, an army officer, and members of a detachment recently back from Bougainville, went to Murray Barracks on the outskirts of the capital. "He attempted to stir the troops up to go after the prime minister," the spokesman said. Other sources suggested Mr. Tohian had been drinking.

"The PM [prime minister] and (opposition leader Paias) Wingti were advised that this was happening and they were moved to secret locations," the Australian High Commission spokesman said. "It appears that when Tohian and his supporters got wind of what was happening they lost interest," he added. [passage omitted]

The spokesman said there were no signs of tension Thursday and emphasised: "There is no suggestion that any politician is involved at all ... We are not calling this a coup."

An Australian foreign affairs spokeswoman in Canberra said the Australian Government did not consider it a coup. "It was a disturbance involving some members of the police force," said the department spokeswoman. "The attempt collapsed very quickly."

A diplomatic source in Wellington, who asked not to be named, said, "we think it was the drink talking."

The conflict on Bougainville, which has cost more than 80 lives, has been a major concern for the government of Mr. Namaliu who came to power in July 1988.

A cease-fire, signed with rebel leader Sam Kauona, came into effect March 2 and the last of security forces were due to leave the island Friday.

Namaliu Briefs Parliament

BK1503091490 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] The Papua New Guinea prime minister, Mr. Namaliu, has told Parliament that the country's police commissioner was drunk and angry last night when he attempted to topple the government.

In an unexpected statement to Parliament, the prime minister said Commissioner Paul Tohian was about to be sacked over his handling of the withdrawal of government forces from Bougainville Island when he tried to start a coup.

Mr. Namaliu said he was convinced there was no conspiracy and that Mr. Tohian had acted alone and heavily under the influence of liquor when he called on soldiers of two Army barracks to rise up and overthrow the government. In a broadcast to similar message over the police radio network, the members of the police force to do the same. [sentence as heard] And while the number of mobile squads had responded, they were ordered back to their barracks by the deputy police commissioner. Dorney says Mr. Namaliu told Parliament that dangerous situation was prevented from developing by the loyalty of the deputy police commissioner and the commander of the defense forces.